18 November 2019

Item 13.5

Wage Theft

Moved by Councillor Scott, seconded by Councillor Scully –

It is resolved that:

(A)   Council note:

    (i)   the increasing number of Australian companies that have been caught underpaying their staff, in some cases by hundreds of millions of dollars; and

    (ii)   that wage theft predominantly affects some of the lowest paid workers in our economy;

(B)   Council:

    (i)   condemn wage theft in all its forms; and

    (ii)   commits to continue to lead by example, ensuring that all City of Sydney staff, contractors and subcontractors are paid correctly with a regular program of auditing compliance for people's wages and conditions; and

(C)   the Chief Executive Officer be requested to report back to the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee and Councillors, via the CEO Update, on steps the City has taken and will undertake to ensure a wages and conditions audit and reporting program is in place in the City of Sydney.

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Note – the motion above was not carried. The resolution below was carried –

It is resolved that:

(A)   Council note:

  (i) the increasing number of Australian companies that have been caught underpaying their staff, in some cases by hundreds of millions of dollars; and

  (ii) that wage theft predominantly affects some of the lowest paid workers in our economy;

(B) Council:

  (i) condemn wage theft in all its forms; and

  (ii) commits to continue to lead by example, ensuring that all City of Sydney staff, contractors and subcontractors are paid correctly with a regular program of auditing compliance for people's wages and conditions; and

(C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to continue to ensure that the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee receives outcomes of ongoing payroll audits to ensure accurate payment of wages and salaries in accordance with the City's awards, and communicates outcomes of these audits to Councillors via CEO Update.

The motion, as varied by consent, was carried unanimously.

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