



1200 Wilmette Avenue
WILMETTE, ILLINOIS 60091-0040

June 26, 2018

ADDITIONAL AGENDA MATERIAL #4

ITEMS:

6.22 & 6.23 Emails from the Public

From: [Anne Stevens](#)
To: [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: Re: Wilmette Board Mtg- Cook County Ordinances
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 4:19:58 PM

Hi Mike,

Thank you for all these notification. I had planned to attend tonight and make a statement but I need to fill in for someone at another evening meeting. My statement is included here. Thank you!

I want to thank the working group and the board for creating a study which I hope is a resource for other communities studying the potential impacts of the Cook County ordinance on suburban communities. Whichever way the vote goes tonight, I feel I better understand the issues facing small businesses and low wage earners in Wilmette, and I imagine many community members share this experience.

I do have a concern i would like addressed. I would like to remind the board and the community about the President's Letter written about this issue by the Village President in the October-January 2017-18 Village Communicator. I feel quite strongly that the President should issue a retraction or clarification to that letter for its strong political tone. I have lived in Wilmette for nine years and actually read every Communicator cover to cover! This makes me one of your biggest fans and a huge nerd. Every Communicator contains a letter from the President. There is often some gentle editorializing, but usually they are chock full of details about issues facing the village. I am used to a measured, informational tone throughout the Communicator.

In the letter I am referencing, which you can read on the Village website, the Village President leads his section in the letter about the Minimum Wage opt out with a section titled "Boycott Businesses?"

It continues: "*Before I begin, I have to say that I am truly saddened by the behavior of a small number of individuals who disagreed with Village Board's decision. I regret to say that there are Wilmette residents who are organizing boycotts and retaliation against local businesses for no offense other than sharing their concerns publicly with the Village Board. These ongoing attempts to chill free speech and harm local businesses are very disturbing. In Wilmette, we have a long standing tradition of civil discourse in an environment of mutual respect for our neighbors. Threats and harassment have no place in Wilmette, regardless of how strongly one may feel about an issue.*"

Now, as a regular reader, this paragraph left me with lots of questions. First of all, when I read it, I had no idea what you were talking about. A boycott? Harassment? Where are the articles in the local press, or any background for these claims? What does this look like? Why are you calling out a small number of individuals? How are these actions, if limited to a handful of citizens, relevant to the community as a whole? What do you mean, retaliation? Chilling free speech? These claims seem to be fear-mongering. They also set an odd tone for the remainder of the letter, which is a thorough explanation of how the Village arrived at its opt-out decision.

These unexplained claims against a 'small number' of unnamed village residents made me deeply uncomfortable. Regardless of how you feel about the minimum wage issue, editorializing like this to shame Wilmette citizens is an inappropriate use of this forum. This is the third time I have made this request to the board, and I have yet to get a response. Please let me know if President Bielinski plans to issue a retraction or clarification about this.

Thanks to all of you for your service.

Anne Hayden Stevens

Wilmette

On Fri, Jun 22, 2018 at 4:14 PM Braiman, Michael <braimanm@wilmette.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

For those of you following the Village's reconsideration of the Cook County Minimum Wage & Paid Sick Leave Ordinances, the agenda materials for the Tuesday, June 26th Village Board meeting **(7:00pm)** are now available on the Village website at the link below. The Cook County items can be found starting on page 285 of the PDF. On Tuesday, the Village Board will take public comment, deliberate, and vote on both the Minimum Wage & Paid Sick Leave Ordinances.

https://www.wilmette.com/download/agendas_and_minutes/village_board/packets/2018/AgendaPacket-06-26-18.pdf

As a reminder, Tuesday's meeting will begin at 7:00pm (not 7:30pm); there are two items of business on the agenda prior to the Cook County Ordinances.

Have a good weekend.

Mike

Michael Braiman

Assistant Village Manager

Village of Wilmette

847-853-7506

From: [Della Deme](#)
To: [Braiman, Michael](#)
Subject: This email is to serve as opposition to the
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 3:18:51 PM

Minimum Wage. As a support to my sister whom had a small business in Long Grove, I know first hand all about the hard work and long hours that a small business owner does. There were many a day when my sister called me for help. She finally closed her store as her profit margin was not much. Money was always being put back into the shop.

Besides I heard from the young people in Seattle that when it was implemented there a lot of young people lost their jobs. Yep some people made more but at the expense of others that lost their jobs.

Thank you
Della Deme

From: [Elizabeth Nicolai](#)
To: [Braithman, Michael](#)
Subject: OPT-IN Minimum Wage/Sick Leave
Date: Tuesday, June 26, 2018 2:28:24 PM

Dear Assistant Village Manager Michael Braithman,

You've heard a lot from both sides now but I've left a couple items unsaid and want to share them now.

I read the FOIA Chamber notes available for the 2016-17 year and made a mental note that the Chamber of Commerce sent an email to the Board in which it slammed and lambasted the Wilmette Justice Team. Shortly thereafter ...it was within two weeks I believe but don't have access to the exact dates now... Jeff Axlerod was chastised in public and eventually the Board voted to opt-out of the ordinances. Although I really don't know the answer, I'm left wondering whether the Chamber's influence is more powerful than the results of the people's referendum.

My only personal encounters with Julie Yusim and friends have occurred at two Board meetings when I happened to be seated within close proximity and quietly asked them to stop conversing among themselves which was distracting being able to hear the proceedings.

On a more positive note I want to relate how small businesses can operate successfully for employer and employee. I happen to know a young man who at age 19 went out to Colorado where he worked his way from dishwasher to owner of a small diner. He paid his employees well and when the 2008 recession hit big time, he would never have thought of letting a single employee go nor would he lower anyone's wages. His cooks were making as much per hour as he. Where did he learn about social justice and moral ethics? Right here in Wilmette, at Loyola Academy.

Elizabeth Nicolai
Wilmette resident

Over the past five or six months, I have attended working group and village board meetings, and read thousands of pages of material, including hundreds of pages of correspondence from business owners and residents. I now know what various people think should be done tonight and, in many cases, I know what they took into account in reaching their decisions and what information they thought most important to their thinking. But I have no idea what you -- who will vote this evening -- have been thinking, what is most relevant to your decision making, or even what questions you may still have. Like everyone else in this room, I can only guess as to how I can use my time here constructively.

Some tea-readers have predicted that a majority of the Board is likely to vote against adopting the Cook County ordinances on the grounds that it would be beyond the legal authority of Cook County and, by extension, Wilmette. I hope they are mistaken. First, because I, like many others, disagree with the conclusion reached in the legal opinions in the Board's informational packets, and second and more importantly, because such a decision would reflect badly on this Board's process. The Cook County State's Attorney's opinions in the packets were written 20 to 23 months ago. The Village's Corporation Counsel's opinion was written 12 months ago. While there have been two more recent opinions from the Corporation Counsel, these merely confirm his original position and add nothing new to his analysis. Thus, any decision tonight based on these opinions could -- and should -- have been made many, many months ago.

If the Board does not believe it has the authority to opt-in then it should not have convened the Working Group. The group did an exemplary job. Some of its members devoted hundreds of hours to reading and sorting through data, studies, testimony, survey results and other information, drafting surveys and listening to public comment. They spent many, many more hours writing a thoughtful, well-organized, readable report. Community members and representatives of businesses and employees potentially affected by the minimum wage issue also gave of their time and effort. I hope their work wasn't for naught.

If the Board does not believe it has the authority to opt-in then it should not have commissioned and paid for a professionally conducted survey of village residents regarding their opinions on the issue. People don't like being asked their opinion only to be later told that it doesn't matter.

If the Board does not believe it has the authority to opt-in then it should not have put those in the business community who are opposed to opting-in through the uncertainty and anxiety of the past six months. While I believe their fears are unfounded, I know that they are genuinely held.

If the Board does not believe it has the authority to opt-in then it should not have introduced the ordinances to be voted on this evening. Many, many village

residents have attended Board meetings, written e-mails and letters, prepared and delivered public comments, all in the belief that their efforts mattered and that opting-in was a possibility. If the Board does not believe it has the authority to opt-in, their time and yours was wasted and they are likely to leave here disillusioned and cynical. Good government should not waste the time and squander the efforts of its most conscientious, well-intentioned citizens. I sincerely hope the tea-readers were mistaken and that this is not how this evening ends.

Remarks, intended for delivery at Board of Trustees' meeting June 26, 2018

Gina Kennedy
2136 Beechwood Avenue, Wilmette

Gregory Oreskovich
President Public Inc
231 17th Street
Wilmette, IL 60091

June 26, 2018

RE: IT'S TIME TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT FOR THOSE WHO GIVE THEIR BEST

In advance of tonight's Wilmette Village Board meeting to reconsider the decision on whether or not to support or the county's higher minimum wage and paid sick leave ordinances, I am writing this note **IN SUPPORT OF THE INITIATIVE**.

As a resident of Wilmette since 2005 and a local business entrepreneur since 2012, I speak as one of thousands who have chosen to move our families to this unique and vibrant community, where we are blessed with a daily lifestyle and living opportunities that rank in the top percentile of all American towns.

I've talked to many of my neighbors on and around 17th street who said this initiative would not prevent them from shopping or dining elsewhere. On the contrary, as one friend told me, passing this initiative would instill an even greater sense of community pride, knowing that the town we call home is also a place that fully supports every working family.

I was born and raised in Evansville, Indiana. I started my first job at the age of twelve, earning minimum wage, working for my uncle who ran his own successful bowling alley business. During my eight years working for one of the finest civic leaders in our community, a president of the local Optimist Club and a leader on numerous local business boards and organizations, I learned what it took to run a successful business. And it started with doing what was right for the people who work for you, providing fair pay, access to quality health care, and above all recognizing that an employee's hard work and dedication is what separates a truly great business from lesser enterprises.

I am proud to call Wilmette home. I frequent the shops and restaurants all around town. The people who work in these businesses are some of the best anywhere in all of Chicagoland. Always friendly. Always there to do what's right and best for the customer. I believe these ordinance initiatives are our opportunity, as a community of modern day business leaders, to do what is now right and best for those who serve our families every day.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my opinion on this important matter for the betterment of Wilmette.

Best Regards,

Gregory Oreskovich

CC: Senta Plunkett
Julie Wolf
George Pearce
Kathy Dodd
Dan Sullivan
Joel Kurzman
Bob Bielinski