

Misty Maza

From: Public Testimony
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 1:26 PM
To: Misty Maza
Subject: Fw: Legislative Committee Public Hearing

From: Andrew Giering <Andrew_Giering@fd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 2:25 PM
To: Public Testimony <PublicTestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Cc: andrew.giering@gmail.com <andrew.giering@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Legislative Committee Public Hearing

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I appreciate it but think I'd rather go as early as possible.

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From: Andrew Giering <Andrew_Giering@fd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 10:28:28 AM
To: publictestimony@newhavenct.gov <publictestimony@newhavenct.gov>
Cc: Andrew Giering <andrew.giering@gmail.com>
Subject: Legislative Committee Public Hearing

Good morning,

I'd like to sign up to speak at the Legislative Committee Public Hearing tonight. I'll be bartending, but can step away to speak as long as you let me know where I am in the queue. I am including my statement below just in case.

Best,
Andrew

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Good evening. My name is Andrew Giering, and I reside at 43 Harbour Close. I am a third-generation New Havener and serve on the Board of Directors of several local non-profit institutions, including the New Haven Free Public Library, Artspace, Canal Dock Boathouse, and Newhallville Community Action Network. My remarks are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of any of these organizations or anyone else.

The COVID-19 pandemic has decimated the local hospitality industry, and in doing so has deepened long-existing economic, racial and gender inequality in our segregated City. This is because hotel workers are disproportionately non-white and female. Black and Latinx communities make up only 30% of the workforce, but make up 50% of the hotel sector. Women make up 47% of the workforce, but comprise 59% of the hotel sector.

The long-time employees of New Haven's hospitality industry should have the right to return to their old jobs. The proposed ordinance requires only what is morally right: that when hotels with 50 or more rooms rehire, they will be required to prioritize their former employees who were laid off in the pandemic to receive the first offers for new jobs.

I've read that some hotel owners are claiming that this is already a common practice, and are asking why it should be mandated. Well, if this is in fact something that hotel owner already do and will continue to do, what's wrong with requiring it by ordinance? If the history of labor in this country has taught us anything, it's that employers can't be trusted to do what is right for their workers. Historically, employers do what's right for themselves, at the expense of their workers, until made to do otherwise.

Numerous cities have passed or will soon pass substantially identical worker recall ordinances, including Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, and Philadelphia. New Haven should follow their lead.

Wealthy companies that own hotels and have already received millions in PPP loans and other federal assistance will recover from this crisis, but our families and neighbors may not. The Worker Recall Ordinance is essential to protect these workers. I encourage the Board of Alders to act now to defend our hotel workers against powerful corporations so that we can prevent the further entrenching of economic racism in New Haven.

Thank you for your consideration.

Andrew Paul Giering
Research and Writing Attorney
Federal Defender Office
265 Church Street, Suite 702
New Haven, CT 06510
Phone: 203-889-4126
Fax: 203-498-4207
Email: andrew_giering@fd.org