



3/12/2021

ATTN: Morgan Hill City Councilmembers

Mayor Rich Constantine

Councilmembers: John McKay, Gino Borgioli, Rene Spring and Yvonne Martinez Beltran

The Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce has been representing business and building community since 1958. Being an advocate of the business and workforce communities, our organization supports actions that satisfy the following measures: SMART Growth, Economic Sustainability, Quality Jobs and Tax Revenue, while keeping the character of our community intact.

Last month, Santa Clara County Supervisors received, reviewed and declined a County-wide Hazard Pay Proposal. The Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce, alongside the Silicon Valley Chamber Coalition, opposed the proposal on the grounds that it would inflict an undue burden on business owners and could cause devastating unintended consequences to the workforce. The Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce supports fair and equal wages but does not feel that a wage increase (on top of the recent minimum wage increase that already took effect earlier this year) is supportive of the business community, especially during a pandemic. A Mandatory Hazard Pay would increase the suffering of our businesses who are still trying to staunch the flow of financial bleeding and would also lead to a reduction in jobs, especially in the restaurant and retail industries, which would disproportionately effect minority and low-income workers citywide. Mandatory Hazard Pay is a short-term band-aid for a long-term problem, imposed at a time when the businesses hardest hit by the pandemic cannot afford it.

Approving and enforcing a Mandatory Hazard Pay on Morgan Hill businesses in the midst of a pandemic will cause more harm than good and could actually result in making income insecurity and food insecurity worse. In attempting to address one systemic inequity, you may be creating new disparities instead. We urge you to instead focus your energies on increasing the quantity and accelerating the timeline of available vaccinations and developing a Recovery Campaign for our business community.

Sincerely,

Brittney Sherman

Brittney Sherman
CEO/President