

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING LABOR DAY 2017 AS LIVING WAGE DAY IN ORANGE COUNTY

WHEREAS, chronic poverty is the biggest challenge to sustainable, diverse, and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, the minimum wage has not increased in North Carolina beyond the federally mandated minimum of \$7.25 set in 2009, which has lost nearly 10% of its value due to cost of living increases; and

WHEREAS, the costs of housing, food, child care, and health care have increased substantially in the eight years since the federal minimum was last raised; and

WHEREAS, many workers in Orange County make less than living wages; and

WHEREAS, a living wage can lift workers out of poverty and towards the middle class; and

WHEREAS, more workers with higher incomes can afford to live in Orange County and spend money locally; and

WHEREAS, employers who pay their workers a living wage report substantially less turnover, better job performance, and higher levels of positive customer engagement; and

WHEREAS, Orange County Living Wage has certified 126 employers who voluntarily pay a living wage and promotes those employers to the community to build a base of engaged, informed consumers who support living-wage-certified businesses and nonprofits; and


WHEREAS, Orange County Living Wage plans a month-long campaign in September 2017 to encourage people to do business with living wage certified employers; and

WHEREAS, Labor Day is a national holiday in recognition of the contributions of workers to our economy; and

WHEREAS, Orange County, in honor of Labor Day, maintains its support of living wage efforts and businesses that provide a living wage to all their employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Orange County Board of Commissioners, a living-wage-certified employer, does hereby proclaim Labor Day 2017 as Living Wage Day in Orange County and encourage consumers to support businesses paying their workers a living wage.

This the 23rd day of August 2017.



Mark Dorosin, Chair
Orange County Board of Commissioners