

ORDINANCE NO. 171004

An ordinance amending Article 10 of Chapter 1 of Division 10 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, the Service Contractor Worker Retention Ordinance, to make certain modifications and clarifications:

THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Los Angeles Administrative Code is hereby amended by amending Article 10 to Chapter 1 of Division 10 to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 10
SERVICE CONTRACTOR WORKER RETENTION**

Sec. 10.36 Findings and Statement of Policy.

The City awards many contracts to private firms to provide services to the public and to City government. The City awards many contracts to private firms to provide services to the public and to City government. The City also provides financial assistance and funding to others for the purpose of economic development or job growth. At the conclusion of the terms of a service contract with the City or with those receiving financial assistance from the City, competition results in the awarding of a service contract to what may be a different contractor. These new contracts often involve anticipated changes in different managerial skills, new technology or techniques, new themes or presentations, or lower costs.

The City expends grant funds under programs created by the federal and state governments. Such expenditures serve to promote the goals established for those programs by such governments and similar goals of the City. The City intends that the policies underlying this article serve to guide the expenditure of such funds to the extent allowed by the laws under which such grant programs are established.

Despite desired changes through the process of entering into new contracts, it is the experience of the City that reasons for change do not necessarily include a need to replace workers presently performing services who already have useful knowledge about the workplace where the services are performed.

Incumbent workers have already invaluable knowledge and experience with the work schedules, practices, and clients. The benefits of replacing these workers without such experiences decreases efficiency and results in a disservice to City and City financed or assisted projects.

Retaining existing service workers when a change in contractors occurs reduces the likelihood of labor disputes and disruptions. The reduction of the likelihood of labor disputes and disruptions results in the assured continuity of services to citizens who receive services provided by the City or by City financed or assisted projects.

It is unacceptable that contracting decisions involving the expenditure of City funds should have any potential effect of creating unemployment and the consequential need for social services. The City, as a principal provider of social support services, has an interest in the stability of employment under contracts with the City or by those receiving financial assistance from the City. The retention of existing workers benefits that interest.

Sec. 10.36.1. Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply throughout this article:

(a) "Awarding authority" means that subordinate or component entity or person of the City (such as a department) or of the financial assistance recipient that awards or is otherwise responsible for the administration of a service contract or, if none, then the City or the City financial assistance recipient.

(b) "City" means the City of Los Angeles and all awarding authorities thereof, including those City departments which exercise independent control over their expenditure of funds, but excludes the Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles.

(c) "City financial assistance recipient" means any person that receives from the City discrete financial assistance expressly articulated and identified by the City in excess of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), such as, through bond financing, planning assistance, tax increment financing, tax credits, or any other form of financial assistance if the purpose of such other form of assistance is economic development or job growth; provided, however, that corporations organized under Section § 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3), with annual operating budgets of less than five million dollars (\$5,000,000) or that regularly employ homeless persons, persons who are chronically unemployed,

or persons receiving public assistance, shall be exempt.

(d) "Contractor" means any person that enters into a service contract with the City or a City financial assistance recipient.

(e) "Employee" means any person employed as a service employee of a contractor or subcontractor earning less than fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per hour in salary or wage whose primary place of employment is in the City on or under the authority of a service contract and including but not limited to: hotel employees, restaurant, food service or banquet employees; janitorial employees; security guards; parking attendants; nonprofessional health care employees; gardeners; waste management employees; and clerical employees; and does not include a person who is (1) a managerial, supervisory, or confidential employees, or (2) required to possess an occupational license.

(f) "Person" means any individual, proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, corporation, limited liability company, trust, association, or other entity that may employ individuals or enter into contracts.

(g) "Service contract" means a contract let to a contractor by the City or a City financial assistance recipient primarily for the furnishing of services to or for the City or financial assistance recipient (as opposed to the purchase of goods or other property) and that involves an expenditure or receipt in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) and a contract term of at least three months.

(h) "Subcontractor" means any person not an employee that enters into a contract with a contractor to assist the contractor in performing a service contract and that employs employees for such purpose.

(i) "Successor service contract" means a service contract where the services to be performed are substantially similar to a service contract that has been recently terminated.

Sec. 10.36.2. Transition Employment Period.

(a) Where an awarding authority has given notice that a service contract has been terminated, or where a service contractor has given notice of such termination, upon receiving or giving such notice, as the case may be, the terminated contractor shall within ten (10) days thereafter provide to the successor contractor the name, address, date of hire, and employment occupation classification of each employee in employment, of itself or subcontractors, at the time of contract termination. If the terminated contractor

has not learned the identity of the successor contractor, if any, by the time that notice was given of contract termination, the terminated contractor shall obtain such information from the awarding authority. If a successor service contract has not been awarded by the end of the ten (10)-day period, the employment information referred to earlier in this subsection shall be provided to the awarding authority at such time. Where a subcontract of a service contract has been terminated prior to the termination of the service contract, the terminated subcontractor shall for purposes of this article be deemed a terminated contractor.

(1) Where a service contract or contracts are being let where the same or similar services were rendered by under multiple service contracts, the City or City financial aid recipient shall pool the employees, ordered by seniority within job classification, under such prior contracts.

(2) Where the use of subcontractors has occurred under the terminated contract or where the use of subcontractors is to be permitted under the successor contract, or where both circumstances arise, the City or City financial assistance recipient shall pool, when applicable, the employees, ordered by seniority within job classification, under such prior contracts or subcontracts where required by and in accordance with rules authorized by this article.

(b) A successor contractor shall retain, for a ninety (90)-day transition employment period, employees who have been employed by the terminated contractor or its subcontractors, if any, for the preceding twelve (12) months or longer. Where pooling of employees has occurred, the successor contractor shall draw from such pools in accordance with rules established under this article. During such ninety (90)-day period, employees so hired shall be employed under the terms and conditions established by the successor contractor (or subcontractor) or as required by law.

(c) If at anytime the successor contractor determines that fewer employees are required to perform the new service contract than were required by the terminated contractor (and subcontractors, if any), the successor contractor shall retain employees by seniority within job classification.

(d) During such ninety (90)-day period, the successor contractor (or subcontractor, where applicable) shall maintain a preferential hiring list of eligible covered employees not retained by the successor contractor (or subcontractor) from which the successor contractor (or subcontractor) shall hire additional employees.

(e) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, during such ninety (90)-day period the successor contractor (or subcontractor, where applicable) shall not discharge without cause an employee retained pursuant to this article. "Cause" for this purpose shall include, but not be limited to, the employee's conduct while in the employ of the terminated contractor or subcontractor that contributed to any decision to terminate the contract or subcontract for fraud or poor performance.

(f) At the end of such ninety (90)-day period, the successor contractor (or subcontractor, where applicable) shall perform a written performance evaluation for each employee retained pursuant to this article. If the employee's performance during such ninety (90)-day period is satisfactory, the successor contractor (or subcontractor) shall offer the employee continued employment under the terms and conditions established by the successor contractor (or subcontractor) or as required by law.(d) During such ninety (90)-day period, the successor contractor shall maintain a preferential hiring list of eligible covered employees not retained by the successor contractor from which the successor contractor shall hire additional employees.

Sec. 10.36.3. Enforcement.

(a) An employee who has been discharged in violation of this article by a successor contractor or its subcontractor may bring an action in the Municipal Court or Superior Court of the State of California, as appropriate, against the successor contractor and, where applicable, its subcontractor, and may be awarded:

(1) Back pay for each day during which the violation continues, which shall be calculated at a rate of compensation not less than the higher of:

(A) The average regular rate of pay received by the employee during the last 3 years of the employee's employment in the same occupation classification; or

(B) The final regular rate received by the employee.

(2) Costs of benefits the successor contractor would have incurred for the employee under the successor contractor's (or subcontractor's, where applicable) benefit plan.

(b) If the employee is the prevailing party in any such legal action, the court shall award reasonable attorney's fees and costs as part of the costs recoverable.

(c) Compliance with this article shall be required in all City contracts to which it applies, and such contracts shall provide that violation of this article shall entitle the City to terminate the contract and otherwise pursue legal remedies that may be available.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this Code or any other ordinance to the contrary, no criminal penalties shall attach for any violation of this article.

Sec. 10.36.4. Exemption for Successor Contractor or Subcontractor's Prior Employees.

An awarding authority shall upon application by a contractor or subcontractor exempt from the requirements of this article a person employed by the contractor or subcontractor continuously for at least twelve (12) months prior to the commencement of the successor service contract or subcontract who is proposed to work on such contract or subcontract as an employee in a capacity similar to such prior employment, where the application demonstrates that (a) the person would otherwise be laid off work and (b) his or her retention would appear to be helpful to the contractor or subcontractor in performing the successor contract or subcontract. Once a person so exempted commences work under a service contract or subcontract, he or she shall be deemed an employee as defined in Section 10.36.1(e) of this Code.

Sec. 10.36.5. Coexistence with Other Available Relief for Specific Deprivations of Protected Rights.

This article shall not be construed to limit an employee's right to bring legal action for wrongful termination.

Sec. 10.36.6. Expenditures Covered by this Article.

This article shall apply to the expenditure, whether through service contracts let by the City or by its financial assistance recipients, of funds entirely within the City's control and to other funds, such as federal or state grant funds, where the application of this article is consonant with the laws authorizing the City to expend such other funds. As to any grant or similar program, this article shall become applicable to the funds authorized by such program if and only if the City Attorney's Office has obtained from the funding government either an opinion or other determination indicating such consonance or a judgment of compliance from a court of law or other tribunal, which procurement has been reported in writing by such Office to the City Council by a letter to the City Clerk.

Sec. 10.36.7. Article Applicable to New Contracts and City Financial Assistance; Cooperative Retroactivity as to Contracts and Financial Assistance Occurring After the Original Ordinance and Prior to the Revision.

The provisions of this article shall apply to contracts consummated and financial assistance provided after the effective date of the ordinance amending this article. As for contracts consummated and financial assistance provided after the original version of this article took effect on January 13, 1996 (by City ordinance no. 170,784) and prior to the effective date of this ordinance, the City directs its appointing authorities and urges others affected to use their best efforts to work cooperatively so as to allow application of this ordinance, rather than its predecessor, to service contracts let during such period. No abrogation of contract or other rights created by the original ordinance, absent consent to do so, shall be effected by the retroactive application of this revision.

Sec. 10.36.8. Promulgation of Implementing Rules.

The City Council shall by resolution designate a department or office, which shall promulgate rules for implementation of this article and otherwise coordinate administration of the requirements of this article.

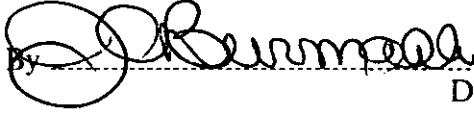
Sec. 10.36.9. Severability.

If any severable provision or provisions of this article or any application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the article that can be given effect notwithstanding such invalidity.

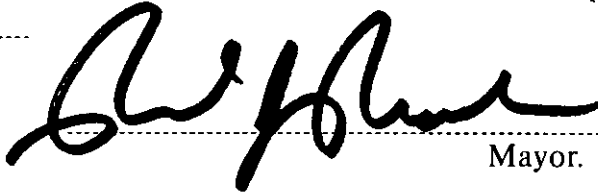

Sec. 2 The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and cause the same to be published in some daily newspaper printed and published in the City of Los Angeles.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of MAR 27 1996

ELIAS MARTINEZ, City Clerk,

By  Deputy.

Approved APR 08 1996

 Mayor. 

Approved as to Form and Legality

.....
JAMES K. HAHN, City Attorney,

By
Deputy.

File No. 95-0654-52