Certification for a
Complaint to the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission Relating to an Elected Official or Candidate for Public Office
(Notary Not Required)

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the facts set forth in this attached complaint are true and correct.

Your signature: 

Your printed name: Elizabeth A. Campbell, Executive Director
Democracy Workshop

Street address: 3213 W. Wheeler Street

City, state and zip code: Seattle, WA 98199

Telephone number: 206-283-0298

Date Signed: March 12, 2014

Place Signed (City and County): Seattle King County

*RCW 9A.72.040 provides that: "(1) A person is guilty of false swearing if he makes a false statement, which he knows to be false, under an oath required or authorized by law. (2) False swearing is a misdemeanor."

COMPLAINT ATTACHED

March 12, 2014

Seattle Ethics & Elections Commission
PO Box 94729
Seattle, Washington 98124-4729

Washington State Public Disclosure Commission
P.O. Box 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908
pdc@pdc.wa.gov

This is a two part communication, one a Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission and a Washington State Public Disclosure Commission complaint, and two, a request for public disclosure:

Name of Official:	Kshama Sawant
Address of Official:	P.O. Box 34025 Seattle, WA 98124-4025
Official's Telephone:	206-684-8016
Official's E-Mail Address:	Kshama.Sawant@seattle.gov

Name of Campaign:	15 Now
Address of Campaign:	PO Box 66591 Seattle, WA 98166
Campaign's Telephone:	(206) 602-6625
Campaign's E-Mail Address:	fifteen.now@gmail.com info@15Now.org

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Name of Campaign:	Socialist Alternative - Seattle
Address of Campaign:	PO Box 45343 Seattle, WA 98145
Campaign's Telephone:	(206) 526-7185
Campaign's E-Mail Address:	Seattle@SocialistAlternative.org

SEATTLE MUNICIPAL CODE 4.16.090 COMPLAINT

For some time now an imperceptible line, that questionably even exists, between Kshama Sawant the Socialist Alternative /$15 Now organization and campaign leader, its political lobbyist, and the union lobbyist. In addition this same unregistered campaign organization that is

controlled by Ms. Sawant has been conducted a wide range of campaign activities, including but not limited to seeking and receiving money and in-kind contributions for the campaign, none of which has been reported as required by City of Seattle and State of Washington laws. Democracy Workshop has been contacted by a number of individuals and asked to review the below matter, and take action as appropriate to clarify the details of this matter and to lodge if necessary any complaint related to election or ethics regulations, or to make a public disclosure request for additional information.

COMPLAINT BACKGROUND

The initial inquiry into this matter involved a question about a city councilmember-elect's use of City of Seattle facilities and resources for a campaign rally for a political organization, Socialist Alternative-$15 Now, controlled by that councilmember, Kshama Sawant.

Documents were requested from the City almost three months ago about the "who, what, when, where, and why" related to the planning and production of the $15 Now political rally within City Hall (see details below). The documents requested were those including but not limited to those which identified who at the City of Seattle was responsible for providing the campaign with the venue and resources, and all documents related to every detail about the event utilizing assorted City resources.

The only response to that request and inquiry was on December 30, 2013 from Polly Grow, Campaign Finance Auditor and Trainer with the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission ("SEEC"). In her response she indicated that the SEEC had no documents that were related to the public disclosure request (see below), and she provided a copy of Seattle Municipal Code ("SMC") 4.16.070.

SMC 4.16.070 relates to a City officer that is a covered individual, related to their improper use of their official position - i.e. using or attempting to use their official position for a purpose that is, or would to a reasonable person appear to be, primarily for the private benefit of the Covered Individual or any other person, rather than primarily for the benefit of the City; and using or attempting to use, or permit the use of any City funds, property, or personnel, for a purpose which is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, for other than a City purpose.[1]

Since December, 2013, additional situations and activities in conjunction with the use of City of Seattle space and resources by the councilmember and the organization/campaign she leads, Socialist Alternative/$15Now have occurred.

These ongoing activities by Ms. Sawant and the Socialist Alternative/$15 Now organization/campaign call into question the ethical propriety of Council Member Sawant's use of her official position with the City, and what appears to be her or her office managers' or employees' use of City funds, property, or personnel in furtherance of *one*, the political campaign she is waging, vis-a-vis, the Socialist Alternative/$15Now organization which she in whole or in part controls, in furtherance of *two*, membership recruiting efforts on behalf of the Socialist Alternative organization, which she is a key member and leader of, and *three*, in furtherance of SEIU 775 union and other unions' business interests, all of with whom Ms.

Sawant has closely identified herself as working with, receiving funding, resources, and/or other material support from, for both her political campaigns and for her Socialist Alternative/$15Now activities, and her lobbying activities.

Also called into question is the failure of Ms. Sawant/Socialist Alternative/Socialist Alternative-$15 Now to register as a paid lobbyist with the SEEC and possibly as a lobbyist with the state Public Disclosure Commission.

According to the current respective websites of the SEEC and the state Public Disclosure Commission there are no records at either location that indicate that Socialist Alternative, "doing business as" the political campaign 15Now.org has registered as required by law, and neither has Kshama Sawant registered as a lobbyist for the union interests on whose behalf she is acting or as a lobbyist for Socialist Alternative/Socialist Alternative-$15 Now.

Please note, the reason for indicating the "dba" status is that a review of the publicly available records, which includes statements by Ms. Sawant and other sources, inextricably links and demonstrates that Socialist Alternative and 15Now.org are one and the same, and that they are under the control and management of Ms. Sawant.

CLARIFICATIONS ABOUT PARTIES TO THE COMPLAINT

According to Ms. Sawant's recorded statements on January 28, 2014, "Join with me and my organization, Socialist Alternative, to challenge big business and fight capitalism. The epicenter of the fight back in 2014 is the Fight for Fifteen. I urge you to be part of this struggle. Find out more and sign up to get involved at 15Now.org."

Whois registration information for 15now.org indicates the following ownership interest in the $15 Now campaign:

Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
Registrant ID:71d4b5acba0a9d28
Registrant Name:Calvin Priest
Registrant Organization:Socialist Alternative
Registrant Street: 232 Belmont Ave E #403
Registrant City:Seattle
Registrant State/Province:WA
Registrant Postal Code:98102
Registrant Country:US
Registrant Phone:+1.2066319480
Registrant Email:calvinpriest@gmail.com
Admin ID:71d4b5acba0a9d28
Admin Name:Calvin Priest
Admin Organization:Socialist Alternative
Admin Street: 232 Belmont Ave E #403

Admin City:Seattle
Admin State/Province:WA
Admin Postal Code:98102
Admin Country:US
Admin Phone:+1.2066319480
Admin Email:calvinpriest@gmail.com

And Whois records for 15now.com, which is a domain variant used by 15now.org, likewise indicates Socialist Alternative's proprietary interest in the 15now.org campaign:

Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
Registry Registrant ID:
Registrant Name: CALVIN PRIEST
Registrant Organization: SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE
Registrant Street: 232 BELMONT AVE E #403
Registrant City: SEATTLE
Registrant State/Province: WA
Registrant Postal Code: 98102
Registrant Country: US
Registrant Phone: +1.2066319480
Registrant Email: CALVINPRIEST@GMAIL.COM
Registry Admin ID:
Admin Name: CALVIN PRIEST
Admin Organization: SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE
Admin Street: 232 BELMONT AVE E #403
Admin City: SEATTLE
Admin State/Province: WA
Admin Postal Code: 98102
Admin Country: US
Admin Phone: +1.2066319480
Admin Email: CALVINPRIEST@GMAIL.COM

It is of further note that 15now.com also redirects to <http://www.whysocialism.org/wp-login.php?redirect_to=/>, which Whois's records indicate has the same ownership, by Socialist Alternative:

Domain Name:WHYSOCIALISM.ORG
Domain ID: D166214279-LROR
Creation Date: 2012-07-29T21:00:12Z
Updated Date: 2014-01-17T04:57:19Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2014-07-29T21:00:12Z
Sponsoring Registrar:eNom, Inc. (R39-LROR)
Sponsoring Registrar IANA ID: 48
WHOIS Server:
Referral URL:
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited

Registrant ID:71d4b5acba0a9d28
Registrant Name:Calvin Priest
Registrant Organization:Socialist Alternative
Registrant Street: 232 Belmont Ave E #403
Registrant City:Seattle
Registrant State/Province:WA
Registrant Postal Code:98102
Registrant Country:US
Registrant Phone:+1.2066319480
Registrant Email:calvinpriest@gmail.com
Admin ID:71d4b5acba0a9d28
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Admin Postal Code:98102
Admin Country:US
Admin Phone:+1.2066319480
Admin Email:calvinpriest@gmail.com

The only conclusion to be derived from the registration and publicly available information that is circulating, including information that Socialist Alternative/$15 Now has published and spread, is that there is no distinction between the two fronts being presented. At its core the whole situation that is the subject of this complaint is squarely centered upon Socialist Alternative and its leader or agent, Kshama Sawant.

SMC 4.16 RELATED ISSUES

Since the City of Seattle's hosting of the Socialist Alternative's public rally at City Hall in December additional incidents have led to many individuals questioning further the ethical propriety and legality of this sitting city councilmember's activities and the compliance of Socialist Alternative/Socialist Alternative-$15 Now with campaign reporting laws.

There are now three Seattle Channel videos featuring Ms. Sawant that clearly have been either produced by the Seattle Channel or been sanctioned by it or by someone at City Hall at some level, such that they are all being hosted on the City of Seattle's/Seattle Channel's website, and on the Seattle Channel's YouTube channel. The first two videos also indicate that they were taped at City Hall, no doubt using Seattle Channel equipment and personnel.

The problem with this is that it is highly questionable that these videos are in fact "city business" and therefore eligible for either production by Seattle Channel or eligible to be hosted on the City of Seattle's online video domains, and even on Councilmember Sawant's City Council web presence.

The first video referenced here is one that is posted on the Seattle Channel's YouTube channel, it shows Ms. Sawant devoting just 35 seconds to what under only the most over generous of definitions could be described as speaking about "city business. " The remainder of this video features Ms. Sawant speaking about the 15Now.org/$15 Now campaign that she is leading. The video is replete with these sorts of references by Ms. Sawant - "The movements we are building," "$15 Now Day of Organizing," inviting everyone to attend, Saturday's [$15 Now] workshops…to organize, form neighborhood action groups, a political campaign.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=djT455WrA_U

The Seattle Channel also is hosting another video which it has produced for Ms. Sawant - a video that Seattle Channel lists as follows: "Councilmember Kshama Sawant: State of the Union Response 1/28/2014 Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant gives the socialist response to Obama`s 2014 State of the Union Address." Emphasis added.

It should be noted, this video is not described as Ms. Sawant speaking in her role as a Seattle City Councilmember. The video clearly sets out that she is speaking in her role as a member and leader of the Socialist organization which she is a member of.

Specifically in this video, Ms. Sawant devotes considerable time plugging political and union organizations she is acting and lobbying for and in an alliance with. In the video she repeatedly plugs both her political organization, Socialist Alternative and the political campaign, Socialist Alternative/15now.org/$15 Now.

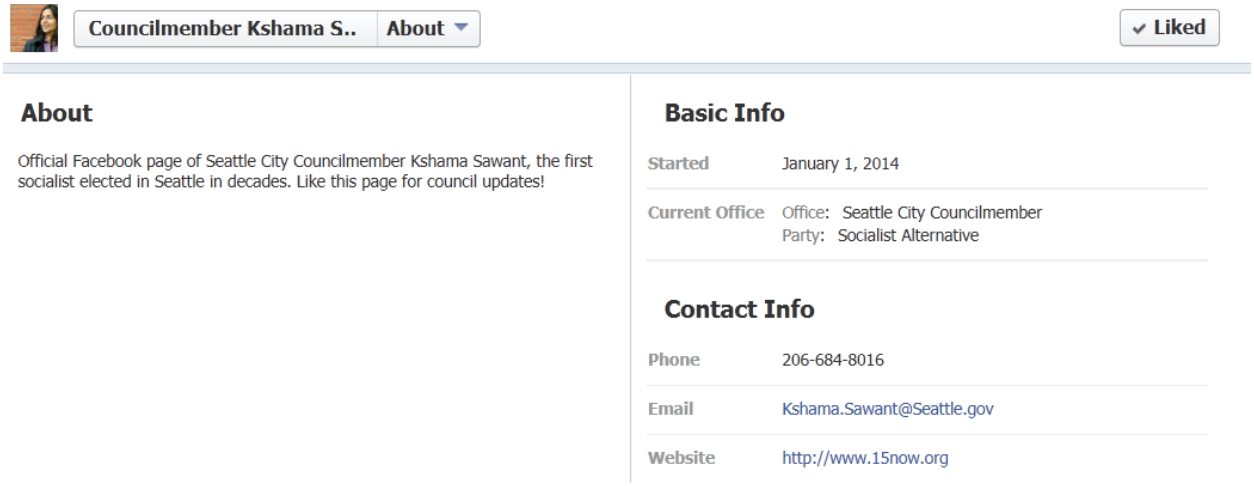
She emphatically states in the video, "Join with me and my organization, Socialist Alternative, to challenge big business and fight capitalism. The epicenter of the fight back in 2014 is the Fight for Fifteen. I urge you to be part of this struggle. Find out more and sign up to get involved at 15Now.org."

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lh7LBtrBq1g&feature=share
http://www.socialistalternative.org/2014/01/29/kshama-sawant-responds-obamas-state-union-address/

A third video posted by the Seattle Channel on March 5th is entirely about Ms. Sawant promoting the Socialist Alternative/$15Now minimum wage agenda and efforts to mobilize its followers, and maybe the public in general, in order to boost the organization's membership and to boost its presence at a City of Seattle hearing related to pending City Council legislation about the minimum wage.
http://sawant.seattle.gov/town-hall-on-the-minimum-wage-march-5/

None of these videos can be remotely said to fulfill the mandates of SMC 4.16.070, that they one, reasonably appear to be for a City of Seattle purpose, and two, that they have been produced and hosted by the City consistent with the SMC duty that would require in the case of video, that similarly such video production and hosting "is available on equal terms to the public generally."

The further blurring of what little line exists between Ms. Sawant as councilmember and Ms. Sawant as Socialist Alternative/$15 Now leader is evidenced not just by these videos, but throughout her official online presences, both via the City of Seattle councilmember website maintained for her, and including her City Council Facebook presence for example:[2]



LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF UNION INTERESTS AND RELATED UNION ACTIVITIES

On Tuesday, February 4, 2014 Ms. Sawant appeared before the Washington State Legislature committee that was holding hearings on HB 2672 – Minimum Hourly Wage Increase. At no time according to the transcript[3] of her testimony before the committee did she speak in her capacity as a Seattle City councilmember, even though the committee welcomed and recorded her appearance and remarks on the basis that she is a city councilmember.

Once again she plugged her political campaign – "As we speak, 15Now.org, labor unions and social justice organizations are building a powerful movement to raise the minimum wage in Seattle to $15/hour …Lastly, I want to give the State House fair warning…$15 Now is building chapters in every one of your districts, and if you don't act, we will!"

On that latter note, multiple union interests for example, which are listed online by Socialist Alternative organization and the Socialist Alternative/$15 Now campaign (that is conversely by extension the Socialist Alternative organization) as "endorsers" of the Socialist Alternative/$15 Now campaign, and who perhaps in reality are really contributors to the Socialist Alternative/$15Now campaign, are likewise parties or potential parties, by extension or otherwise, to collective bargaining or public works contract agreements with or affecting the City of Seattle.

The record continues to build that Ms. Sawant is in fact acting as a lobbyist for union interests, and very likely that the activities she is engaging in are in conflict with her position as a city councilmember, or at the least, inappropriate for a city councilmember to engage in.

A recent example of this lobbying/acting on behalf of a union is this: At the end of February Ms. Sawant acting as a councilmember inserted herself into a matter that was clearly a union matter, a dispute between two signatories to a union contract, Harborview Medical Center and the Washington Federation of State Employees union. Acting in her capacity as a representative of the City of Seattle, she first "As part of this process,"[4] met with 40 of Harborview's union employees, as she put it, "…with my office so that we could coordinate and help publicize their concerns." After that meeting with the union employees Ms. Sawant proceeded to send a tersely worded ultimatum to Harborview CEO Paul Ramsey, again acting in her capacity as a City of Seattle councilmember/representative.

Via her letter to UW Medicine on February 26th Ms. Sawant set out a clear message that she was acting as a City of Seattle representative, that she was using City of Seattle resources against Harborview. In the letter she threatened Harborview and its CEO, that if they did not capitulate in the controversy between Harborview's union employee members and the union that is supposed to represent them, that she would take retaliatory action against Harborview as a City of Seattle councilmember, again using City resources.

The letter also included the veiled threat that in the guise of Ms. Sawant's alter-ego, Socialist Alternative, she would seek to in some way disrupt or otherwise impinge upon Harborview's public hospital operations, and that she would likewise use her power as a Seattle councilmember accordingly:

"My staff are investigating how Seattle City Ordinances can be applied to Seattle workers at Harborview, as well as how Seattle's laws can complement the King County Code. I will be bringing this issue to the attention of my colleagues on the King County Council and the *larger public* as necessary. I promise to do everything in my power as a City Councilmember to make sure that no Seattle worker experiences discrimination on the basis of race or language proficiency. If UW Medicine custodians at Harborview have to resort to *public actions* to win justice, I pledge to march at their side."[5] [Emphasis added.]

On March 7th Ms. Sawant posted on her City of Seattle website that since her intervention into the union matter she can now "…thank Harborview for responding promptly and entering into negotiations with the union, WFSE 1488," and that she "…would also like to extend thanks to the WFSE organizers and shop stewards for all their organizing efforts and for representing the workers." However she notes this is not the end of the union matter and her intervention into it, including using her position as a City Councilmember and City resources. In her online post she states, "…my office will remain vigilant in making sure that the agreements are carried out. We will ensure that the 38 workers who have not yet passed the test are retained, and that there is a thorough investigation into the allegations of discrimination."

All of the above union related activities, and possibly more, have undeniably been undertaken and been sustained via the use of the City of Seattle's name and authority and via the use of City of Seattle resources.

This elected official has unilaterally chosen to act in the name of the City of Seattle on behalf of individuals that are parties to a union contract, that are first and foremost legally bound to be represented by their union in whatever situation or negotiation between their employer and the union that they are party to - not by the City of Seattle.

LOBBYING ACTIVITIES AND MAINTAINING ONGOING CAMPAIGNS RELATED TO PENDING LEGISLATION

The City of Seattle, the Mayor's office and the City Council have for several months been in deliberations about pending legislation related to workplace conditions, terms of employment, and employee compensation – not just for the City of Seattle workforce, but for the whole of the city of Seattle's workforces.

Repeatedly and vociferously Socialist Alternative/$15 Now and Kshama Sawant have railed and assailed the City's legislative processes and the Mayor's legislative agenda, including organizing multiple public protests, soliciting through a variety of methods individuals to join Socialist Alternative and Ms. Sawant in the campaign targeting the other councilmembers and the Mayor, intent upon arraying them against the City of Seattle's legislative efforts.

The oppositional activities include thinly disguised political strong arm tactics, all intended to intimidate the mayor and Ms. Sawant's fellow councilmembers in much the same fashion as was done to the head of Harborview.

The activities also include solicitations for money and in-kind contributions for these activities.

INITIATIVE CAMPAIGN

In addition to the intimidation tactics, Ms. Sawant and Socialist Alternative have organized and made operational a campaign for a City of Seattle initiative to achieve their objectives.

That effort has been underway at least since November, 2013. Multiple public statements by Ms. Sawant and others associated with her and with Socialist Alternative have been made to this effect. Multiple and regular references by Ms. Sawant and Socialist Alternative indicate that they are proceeding with the campaign, and have been doing so for several months now. In Socialist Alternative/$15 Now/Ms. Sawant's own words:

<u>November 22, 2013</u>:
"Locker [Sawant campaign manager], who answered curtly and sounded wary of some of my questions, said the campaign needs time to determine Sawant's transition from part-time professor to full-time council member. However, he said they are definitely making big plans to

organize a 10,000-person march next year to raise the minimum wage. Sawant wants to chair a committee to look at the issue. If the city council and mayor-elect don't take action, Sawant will support an initiative on the November ballot."
http://blogs.seattletimes.com/opinionnw/2013/11/22/kshama-sawant-seattle-city-council/

December 14, 2013:
"I [Sawant] am working with unions and community organizations to build on this by preparing to launch a grassroots campaign to win a $15/hour minimum wage in Seattle in 2014. This campaign will build up public pressure to make sure the city government passes a real ordinance for $15/hour.

"But this might not be enough. Big business will not let this pass without a serious fight. We will need to counter the power of corporate America with a powerful mass movement of neighborhood and campus groups, town hall meetings, and mass rallies. In case the city government fails to pass a real $15/hour ordinance, we need to lay the basis now for a $15 ballot initiative in November 2014.

"We need to face up to this challenge. It will be a trial of strength between the 99% and corporate America. Can we win this battle? I believe we can, but it depends on every one of us stepping up.

"This $15 Now campaign will require real resources, and we have a goal of getting at least 1000 people to donate $15 per month. Will you join me in donating $15 per month to the $15 Now campaign? Of course, you are welcome to donate more on a monthly or one-time basis!

We are concentrating on Seattle where the fight for $15 has the best immediate prospects. But a victory in Seattle in 2014 would open the floodgates for working people to follow suit and demand $15/hour across the country.

Please let me know what you think about this initiative and whether we can count on your endorsement and donation.

"You can set up a monthly donation, or a one time donation here."
http://www.votesawant.org/_15_hr

December 25, 2013:
"Sawant had held her own press conference two days earlier pledging to propose a $15-an-hour minimum wage ordinance soon after taking office in January. If that failed, she would help push a voter initiative to appear on the November ballot.

"Sawant said her commitment to a $15-an-hour rate is unchanged, and she is already pushing the committee to work faster. She wants the committee to complete its work by April, so organizers have time to create a ballot initiative if the work fails."
http://realchangenews.org/index.php/site/archives/8493

January 5, 2014**:**

"The first thing we plan on doing after Kshama takes office is to propose an ordinance for a $15/hour minimum wage citywide for all workers; the city council has the authority to pass an ordinance anytime they want. With the help of our community allies, we're going to draft this ordinance, put it on the table, and if the other council members try to stall, delay or water it down, we'll put it to the people as an initiative for a ballot vote.

"Anh Tran [Socialist Alternative member] pointed to the next step, linking the demand of *15 Now* to International Women's Day events on March 8, and the next big mobilization for the movement: the March for $15 on March 15. The March 15th escalation will amplify the protest and [put] pressure on the council and Advisory Committee to reach a decision on the next significant steps toward raising the minimum wage, but the *15 Now* campaign is not holding it's breath."
http://links.org.au/node/3655

January 22, 2014:
"While she throws her financial support to a campaign to raise the minimum wage, Sawant is also working with a 23-person committee Mayor Ed Murray appointed to create a minimum-wage proposal for the city council to pass without going to the ballot…Sawant is pushing for a $15-an-hour minimum wage inside of City Hall and out.

"She'll support the mayor's efforts to pass a higher minimum wage through the city council as long the ordinance is not watered down.

"'When we say minimum wage, we mean all workers,' Sawant said. 'A universal minimum wage is all that we are fighting for.'

"Murray's panel expects to come up with a minimum-wage ordinance by April. If it fails, or falls short of the $15 Now campaign's goals, the group will have a short window to collect the signatures necessary to make the November ballot.

"The campaign would need 19,047 signatures — 10 percent of the total voters in the last mayoral election — by early July.

"In the meantime, the $15 Now campaign is building its membership and profile. Hundreds appeared at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Rally and March Jan. 20, and the campaign has started forming neighborhood groups.

"Philip Locker, Sawant's former campaign manager, said the $15 Now campaign will push city lawmakers to create a minimum wage, but is not relying on politicians to get the job done.

"'You have till April to present a strong, adequate $15-an-hour minimum wage,' Locker said of the city council and mayor."
http://realchangenews.org/index.php/site/archives/8590

February 16th**:**
"'I'm throwing down the gauntlet,' Sawant said, declaring herself the first politician to support a true $15-per-hour rate. She and other rally speakers cautioned against politicians and businesses who say they support a minimum wage increase but want loopholes and exemptions.

"As Sawant expressed in an exclusive interview with KIRO 7 last week, she continues to oppose exemptions for certain businesses, counting tips as part of the minimum wage, or including benefits like vacation or sick time as part of the minimum wage…The $15 Now group divided the crowd into voting districts. They said these groups may later need to go door-to-door to ask for signatures if they push for a ballot initiative.

"The ballot initiative will come if the mayor's committee on this issue does not move quickly. Sawant's comments to the crowd did not inspire much confidence in quick action.

"Talking about the mayor's committee, Sawant said, 'The Seattle City Council has set up another committee whose sole goings on is to follow what's going on with that first committee, and then the first committee has set up sub-committees to carry out the work of the committee. We're going to need another committee just to keep up with the definitions of these committees.'"
http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/kshama-sawant-throwing-down-gauntlet-over-minimum-/ndQds/

March 4th:
"But those conditions are not sitting well with the leader of $15 Now, Kshama Sawant. 'We are not interested in a measure that is 15 in name only but has more holes than Swiss cheese,' she said. 15 Now is training volunteers to start campaigning for the $15 minimum wage throughout the city.

"On a recent weekend, they brought hundreds of people together at a downtown Seattle union hall. Participants attended workshops on how to organize neighborhoods, picket fast-food restaurants and gather signatures on buses…Sawant, who made the $15 an hour wage the signature issue in her City Council campaign, said she wants the wage hike now, with no exceptions, conditions or delays. She said given the resistance of businesses, the only way to achieve that would be to organize a massive grassroots movement…According to Sawant, the goal of $15 Now is to pressure City Hall to come up with the most aggressive wage hike possible. If activists do not get what they want, they are preparing to put an initiative on the fall ballot, much like the initiative that recently passed in the city of SeaTac. Many of the members of 15 Now think an initiative is almost inevitable.

''That's what this is about, making sure that by the time that moment arrives, and it will arrive, that we have a grassroots structure in place, functioning. Because we are going to need to gather a large amount of signatures in a short amount of time,' said Tom Barnard, a Greenwood resident and long-time progressive activist."
http://kuow.org/post/seattle-minimum-wage-activists-prepare-fight-against-swiss-cheese-plan

March 11, 2014:
"15 Now activists, who share the aims and some of the socialist rhetoric of Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant, are keeping the pressure on for a strong measure without compromises.

"They are recruiting volunteers — aiming for 1,000 — ready to go door-to-door across the city to collect the more than 21,000 signatures required to place an initiative before voters in November."

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2023105883_15nowxml.html

SUMMARY

It must be noted that all these situations involve an elected City Councilmember that has obviously chosen to discard the barest of pretenses that they are a councilmember, and instead is demonstrably acting the part of both a campaign organizer and manager and as a lobbyist; unregistered ones at that!

At all times material herein, Ms. Sawant and her organizational, campaign, and union affiliates appear to be taking advantage of the access and use of what is essentially the full faith and credit of the City of Seattle, which includes the panoply of taxpayer paid for resources and assets of the City of Seattle - most of which are being used by them to wage a public campaign unrelated to City business, all of which are unavailable to the public, and are being arrayed against Ms. Sawant's fellow city councilmembers and the Mayor.

These City resources are also being used in furtherance of lobbying activities and in furtherance of an initiative campaign. Both sets of activities are intended to influence pending legislation at the city and even the state levels, are intended to influence or curtail the deliberations of a lawfully convened citizen/City of Seattle advisory panel, are intended to otherwise disrupt or corrupt the City of Seattle's legislative processes, and are intended to further union interests.

OFFICIAL POSITION RELATED TO CAMPAIGN REGISTRATION AND REPORTING

In August of 2010 the SEEC's Executive Director, Wayne Barnett, made the following comments about campaign registration and reporting obligations, related to whether an actual initiative had to be submitted to the City before a campaign was required to register and report to the SEEC - whether a prospective candidate, a prospective ballot issue was subject to campaign registration and reporting regulations.

His unequivocal statements on August 17, 2010 were as follows: "The law has never been interpreted that way. Either by us or the PDC (and I checked with their acting director on that…)' Prospective' candidates file all the time. City council candidates are already filing reports for the 2011 campaign, even though they won't officially be on the ballot until filing week in June of 2011. Maybe one of the incumbents will decide not to run between now and June of next year, but that doesn't change the fact that the funds they are raising today have to be reported."

FAILURE TO REGISTER AND REPORT

Because of the failures by both the Socialist Alternative or its alter ego the Socialist Alternative/$15Now membership drive/minimum wage legislation/initiative campaigns, and Kshama Sawant and her alter-egos as campaign manager/organization leader/lobbyist failure to register with the SEEC and with the state Public Disclosure Commission as a campaign, and as a lobbyist, there is no positive, and most importantly no *public* way of knowing who is contributing to the campaign and lobbying activities.

There is no way to affirmatively know who is supporting those, to what degree Ms. Sawant's participation in those campaign and lobbying activity figures. It is impossible to ascertain what her participation in those activities includes, the activities whereby she is in whole or in part using her position as a Seattle City Councilmember to contribute City resources, property, or personnel to the campaigns and political objectives - for objectives that are other than for a City purpose.

Nothing in the way of who is supporting the campaign and lobbying activities has been accounted for. These activities have perhaps compromised City of Seattle interests, or at a minimum created a serious conflict of interest breach related to Ms. Sawant's position as an elected official.

REMEDIES SOUGHT

A thorough investigation into the associated matters herein is requested. It is requested that if necessary an independent individual or panel be appointed by the SEEC to conduct an inquiry into this matter, and to undertake also an audit. This will serve to ascertain what activities using City resources have taken place, what the dollar value of this campaign activity is, or to what extent expenditures of City of Seattle funds or the consumption of City resources may have taken place; if any have been for the benefit of Socialist Alternative, Socialist Alternative/$15 Now, for any union's benefit, or for the benefit of Ms. Sawant in her capacity as a campaign leader or lobbyist, or for any other alter ego she holds outside of her position as a City of Seattle councilmember.

It is requested that the investigation be organized so that no individual or individuals participating in it will be intimidated by any source or party, or influenced by the expediencies of or influenced by any elected or unelected official; that the investigation and the parties to it be isolated from and impervious to any pressure related to conditions of employment with the City of Seattle.

In addition it is requested that the following actions be taken by the SEEC and the Public Disclosure Commission to:

- Require Socialist Alternative/$15 Now to immediately register with the Seattle Ethics and Election Commission and the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission;

- Require Kshama Sawant to immediate register as a paid lobbyist with Seattle Ethics and Election Commission and as applicable as a lobbyist with the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission;

- Require both Socialist Alternative/$15 Now and Kshama Sawant to immediately submit retroactive campaign and lobbyist reports from December 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014;

- Assess appropriate penalties against Socialist Alternative/$15 Now and Kshama Sawant for the failure to comply with campaign and lobbyist registration and reporting laws for the City and the State; and for

- Such other relief as the SEEC or the Public Disclosure Commission may deem appropriate.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUEST

To: Legislative Branch Public Disclosure Coordinator
(including requests to the City Council, City Clerk & the Legislative Department)
Sharon.Johnson@seattle.gov

Mayor's Office
execpdr@seattle.gov

Information Technology – Seattle Channel
megan.coppersmith@seattle.gov

The following is a public disclosure request for documents for the time period of November 1, 2013 through March 13, 2014:

1. All documents related to who the person or persons were that work for the City of Seattle that participated in the planning and execution of the $15 Now campaign event held at City Hall on December 5, 2013; who arranged for the accommodations, equipment, what communications among the parties involved took place to facilitate the event, and conversely documents are requested for the same information related to any non-City of Seattle parties to this matter and their related communications and activities.

2. All documents related to any Seattle Channel services, advice, hosting, or production for any video for Councilmember Sawant; including when the related activities took place, who requested them, who approved of them, who provided them, the amount of City staff time and its value for the related activities, what equipment was utilized in the production and what post production equipment, software or personnel were utilized, and the dollar value of the same.

3. All documents related to the following matters, organizations, online presences, or individuals associated with the same:
   a) Labor for Kshama Sawant, Vote Sawant, Councilmember Kshama Sawant, Socialist Alternative, Socialist Alternative/$15 Now membership and political campaign activities;

b) UW Medicine Harborview-WFSE 1488
c) Hunger striking detainees
d) Union organizations or union agendas

4. All documents, including but not limited to communications, emails, meeting materials, phone logs, message logs, visitor logs, cell phone records, emails, for Kshama Sawant or any staff assigned to or employed by her office that is related in any way to any matter itemized in Section 3. a), b), c), and d) above.

5. All documents are requested related to any list or lists developed or maintained by Councilmember Sawant or by her office of individuals or groups that have or may receive email or postal communications from Ms. Sawant or from her office.

6. All documents are requested related to any list or lists developed or maintained by the Legislative Department of individuals or groups that have or may receive email or postal communications from Ms. Sawant or her office.

Thank you in advance to your attention to this inquiry. It is requested that any public disclosure materials be released in electronic form only, and that any documents which are in the form of a worksheet (Excel for example), database, csv, or table format, be released in those formats. If any hard copies are provided, please only provide single-sided copies.

cc: Alyssa Englebrecht, Democracy Workshop Attorney

SEEC RESPONSE EMAIL

To: "Seattle Ethics and Election Commission" <wayne.barnett@seattle.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 3:34:43 PM
Subject: Authority for Campaigns to Use City Facilities and Resources

Dear Wayne,
I am writing to find out the details about how it is that the City of Seattle has what it appears to have done, graciously provided its facilities and resources to a public campaign. I would draw your attention to the pictures and video of a press conference held by
the campaign organization "15now", otherwise known as 15now.com:
http://slog.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2013/12/17/kshama-sawant-2014-is-going-to-be-the-year-of-15-an-hour-in-seattle
http://slog.thestranger.com/slog/archives/2013/12/17/kshama-sawant-launching-15noworg-to-increase-minimum-wage

It is clear from the pictures and video of today's press conference that someone at City Hall decided to provide City space and City equipment to the campaign - for example that is clearly a City of Seattle podium with the City's logo on it. I think it is quite obvious what went on.

While the protagonist of this "15now" campaign, Ms. Kshama Sawant, is a city councilmember-elect, there is no indication in any of the reports from this press conference today that demonstrate that

her appearance was in that capacity. There is no indication in her videotaped remarks - she clearly identified herself as the head of the "15now" campaign, which in turn has clearly identified itself as an instrument of the Socialist Alternative organization to which Ms. Sawant belongs, the signage used at the event spelled that out. The event was the Socialist Alternative-15now.com campaign, 15now.com's domain registration in turns spells out who that consists of:

Registrant Organization: Socialist Alternative
Registrant Street1:232 Belmont Ave E #403
Registrant Street2:
Registrant Street3:
Registrant City:Seattle
Registrant State/Province:WA
Registrant Postal Code:98102

Ms. Sawant's recorded comments at the rally only make a passing reference to her being a councilmember-elect. Consistently throughout her remarks she identified herself and the individuals with her as being in attendance at City Hall, using City facilities and resources as representatives of the 15now.com campaign. I think we have to take her at her word the capacity she was at City Hall as, was as the leader of the 15now.com campaign. As a reporter put it, "... she's not trying to bullshit anyone."

Where is the line drawn Wayne, does the City in fact have a policy of rolling out the red carpet to all campaigns, or is it only select campaigns? Is a councilmember-elect given special prerogatives, such as being able to command City resources for the benefit of a private campaign they are leading?

Are there City policies, ethics rules about city councilmembers using the resources of the City of Seattle for their private campaign aspirations, for outside campaign organizations that they control or are affiliated with?

Thanks for your time, and I look forward to your sorting out how this situation came to be, who are the people working for the City that arranged the accommodations, what communications among the parties was involved, the City's and the campaign's, what took place to facilitate the event? This is also a request for those documents that answer the questions posed herein, dated between November 5, 2013 to 3:00 PM today.

From: "Polly Grow" <Polly.Grow@seattle.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2013 3:06:46 PM
Subject: Public Disclosure Request

The response to your Public Disclosure Request got sidetracked in the holiday shuffle. Please accept my apologies for not responding earlier.
--Polly

We have received your email dated 12/17/13 which includes a complaint and a request for Public Records. This email is responding to the Public Records request portion of your email.

You asked if there are "City policies, ethics rules about city councilmembers using the resources of the City of Seattle for their private campaign aspirations, for outside campaign organizations that they control or are affiliated with? "

SMC 2.04.300 prohibits the use of public facilities in campaigns. (Click on the Link to see the code section.)

In addition, SMC 4.16.070 A. 2. Prohibits the use of official position for primarily private benefit. I have pasted the relevant section below.

SMC 4.16.070

A Covered Individual may not:…

2. Improper Use of Official Position.

a. Use or attempt to use his or her official position for a purpose that is, or would to a reasonable person appear to be, primarily for the private benefit of the Covered Individual or any other person, rather than primarily for the benefit of the City, except as permitted by Section 4.16.071

b. Use or attempt to use, or permit the use of any City funds , property, or personnel, for a purpose which is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, for other than a City purpose, except as permitted by Section 4.16.071; provided, that nothing shall prevent the private use of City property which is available on equal terms to the public generally (such as the use of library books or tennis courts), the use of City property in accordance with municipal policy for the conduct of official City business (such as the use of a City automobile), if in fact the property is used appropriately; or the use of City property for participation of the City or its officials in activities of associations that include other governments or governmental officials;

We have no other records that are responsive to the other questions you asked with regard to Councilmember-elect Sawant's press conference.

Wayne will be responding to you separately about your complaint. After discussing the matter with him, if you decide to file a public disclosure request for additional documents, please let me know. I will be out of the office from December 20 through December 27, 2013.

Yours truly,

POLLY GROW

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OFFICER

---

[1] "City officer" means every individual elected or appointed to an office in any City agency, whether such individual is paid or unpaid

"Covered Individual" means any City officer, City employee, City contractor or City volunteer. Covered Individual also includes every individual who was a City officer, City employee, City contractor or City volunteer at the time of the act or omission that is alleged to have violated this chapter, even if he or she no longer has that status.

"SMC 2. Improper Use Of Official Position"
a. Use or attempt to use his or her official position for a purpose that is, or would to a reasonable person appear to be primarily for the private benefit of the Covered Individual or any other person, rather than primarily for the benefit of the City, except as permitted by Section 4.16.071;
b. Use or attempt to use, or permit the use of any City funds, property, or personnel, for a purpose which is, or to a reasonable person would appear to be, for other than a City purpose, except as permitted by Section 4.16.071; provided, that nothing shall prevent the private use of City property which is available on equal terms to the public

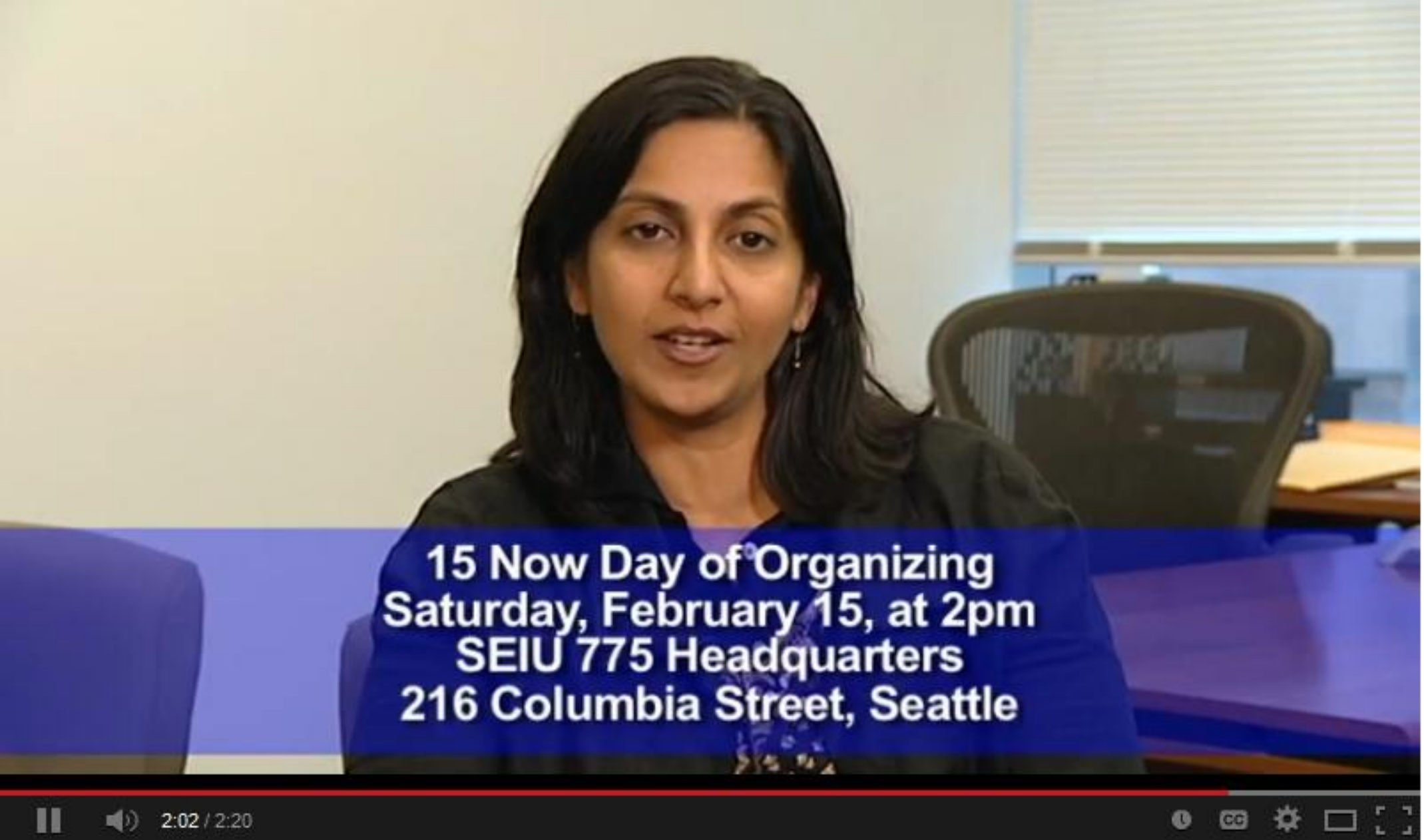
generally (such as the use of library books or tennis courts), the use of City property in accordance with municipal policy for the conduct of official City business (such as the use of a City automobile), if in fact the property is used appropriately; or the use of City property for participation of the City or its officials in activities of associations that include other governments or governmental officials;

[2] See additional materials attached hereto.

[3] http://www.15now.org/seattle-city-council-member-kshama-sawant-to-wa-state-legislators-if-you-dont-act-we-will/

[4] http://sawant.seattle.gov/letter-urging-harborview-to-end-racial-harrassment/

[5] http://sawant.seattle.gov/letter-urging-harborview-to-end-racial-harrassment/


15 Now Day of Organizing
Saturday, February 15, at 2pm
SEIU 775 Headquarters
216 Columbia Street, Seattle
2:02 / 2:20


KSHAMA SAWANT, Councilmember
City of Seattle



Kshama Sawant invites you to Minimum Wage Town Hall: Marc…

SeattleCouncil · 1 video

Subscribe 10

103 views

Like

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Published on Mar 3, 2014

http://www.15now.org

http://www.seattle.gov/council/sawant/

The debate around the minimum wage continues in Seattle.


HB 2672 - MINIMUM HOURLY WAGE INCREASE
2/4/14
PUBLIC HEARING
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LEG.WA.GOV
HOUSE LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
TVW
90:02
109:21

seattle.gov
Departments | Services | Staff Directory
GO

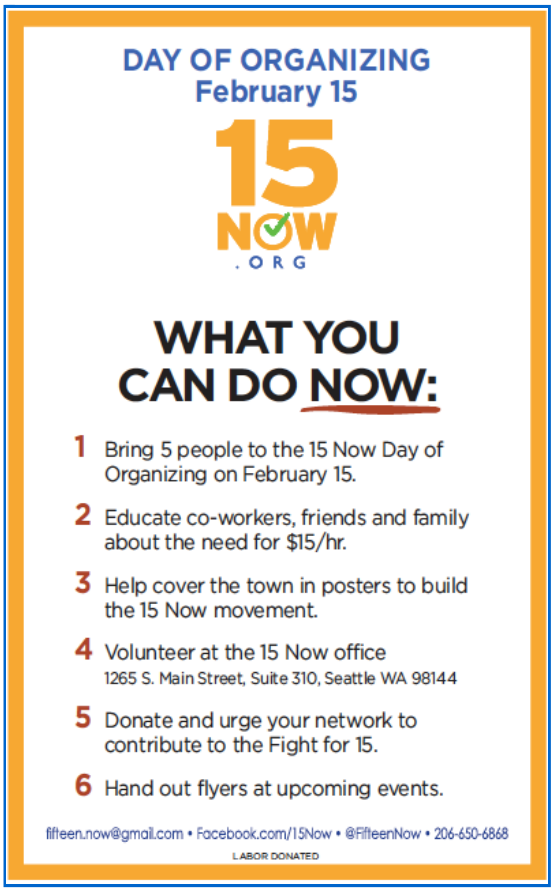


February 15 – Day of Organizing for a $15/hour Minimum Wage

No Comments (*Leave Comment*)



Dear sisters and brothers,



Flyer for 15 Now Day of Organizing

Join me on Saturday, February 15: I will be enthusiastically adding my voice to the 15now.org Day of Organizing at 2pm at the SEIU 775 Headquarters at 215 Columbia Street, downtown.

To win a $15/hour minimum wage, we need to organize. Big business is gearing up to spend tens of millions of dollars to defeat us. We don't have their money – we have each other – and to win – we need to organize a campaign to educate our neighbors, coworkers, classmates, parents, sons and daughters on why $15/hour now! We need to build for a big week of action in March from March 7th to March 15th. We need to build for a 20,000 person strong rally on May 1st for International Workers' Day demanding $15/hour!

15 Now's February 15th Day of Organizing will be a day of practical experience, of organizing neighborhood action groups and discussing the ideas and arguments for a $15/hour minimum wage. I will be speaking along with SEIU 775 President David Rolf, Green Party 2012 presidential candidate Jill Stein, SEIU 6 President Sergio Salinas, NAACP leader James Bible, and Burien City Councilmember Lauren Berkowitz, just to name a few. To top it off, the day will finish with a concert featuring RA Scion and Epiphany Jam Experience at the same venue!

Please invite your friends to the Facebook event. Tweet @FifteenNow #15now

Here is a link to the flyer if you want to spread it around your community.

Posted: February 11th, 2014 under Uncategorized

Leave a comment

Name:

E-mail:

URL:

Message:

Submit!

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  - Report Back from First City Light Meeting

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Seattle City Light

Public Disclosure

All information posted to this blog, including comments and the identities of those submitting for posting, are subject to public disclosure. Public Records requests must be filed through the Legislative Department Public Records Act Officer.

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Kshama Sawant

Position 2

February 15 – Day of Organizing for a $15/hour Minimum Wage

February 11th, 2014

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[More]

| No Comments *(Leave Comment)*

Uncategorized (RSS)

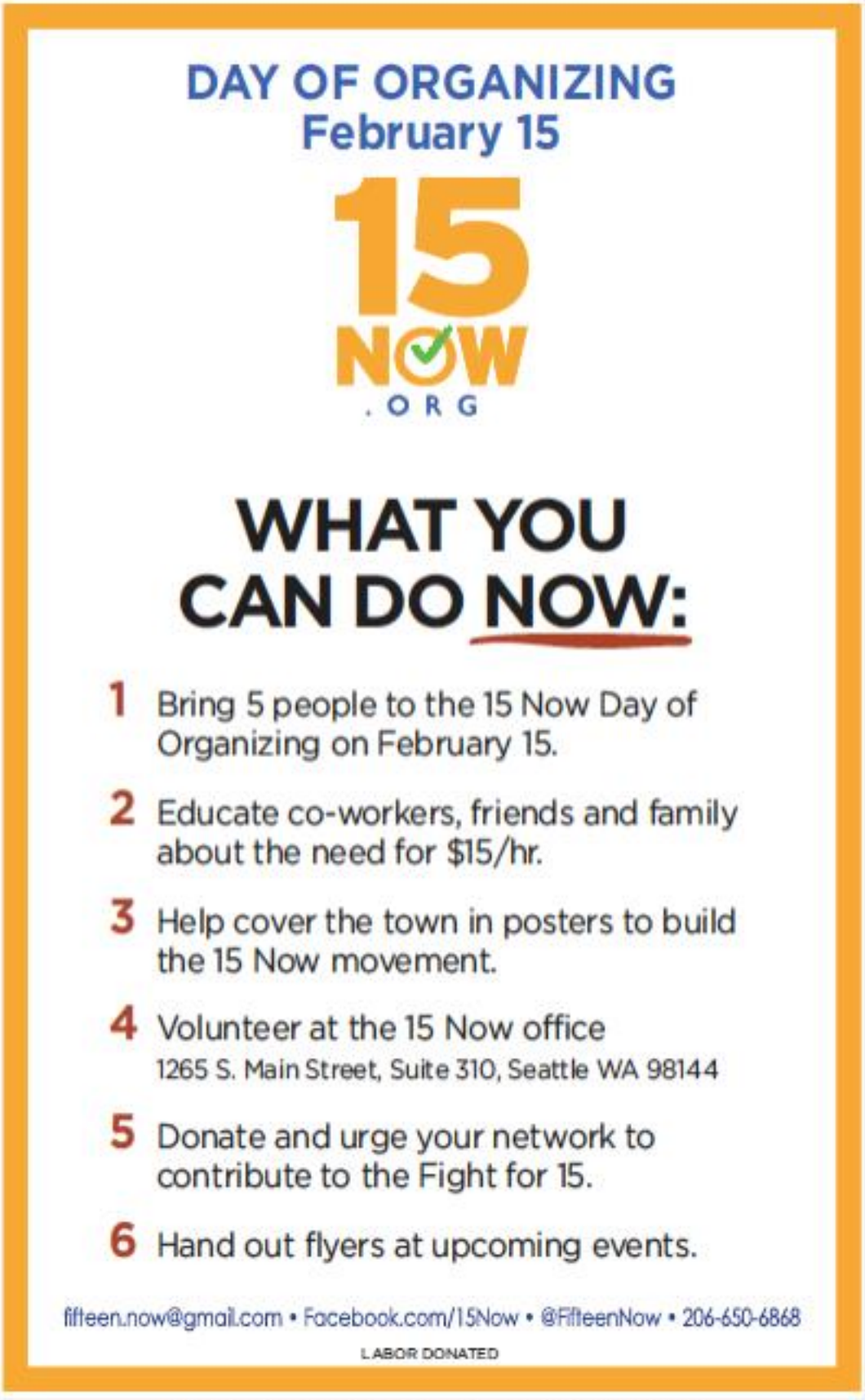
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February 15 – Day of Organizing for a $15/hour Minimum Wage

Report Back from First City Light Meeting

Dear sisters and brothers,

Join me on Saturday, February 15: I will be enthusiastically adding my voice to the 15now.org Day of Organizing at 2pm at the SEIU 775 Headquarters at 215 Columbia Street, downtown.



Flyer for 15 Now Day of Organizing

To win a $15/hour minimum wage, we need to organize. Big business is gearing up to spend tens of millions of dollars to defeat us. We don't have their money – we have each other – and to win – we need to organize a campaign to educate our neighbors, coworkers, classmates, parents, sons and daughters on why $15/hour now! We need to build for a big week of action in March from March 7th to March 15th. We need to build for a



The debate around the minimum wage continues in Seattle. Councilmember Kshama Sawant and 15 Now call for a $15/hour minimum wage, however the debate and discussion has taken place behind closed doors without the direct input of minimum wage workers. Wednesday, March 5, 2014 is the first time that City Council and Mayor Ed Murray's advisory committee will face the public and hear from working people from all over Seattle.

We invite you to attend, bring friends, and tell everyone what $15/hour minimum wage means to you, your family, and your community. This event will be at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 8th Ave (near Seneca St). Doors open at 5pm the event will start at 6pm (link to official agenda http://clerk.seattle.gov/~scripts/nph-brs.exe?S3=Minimum.COMM.+and+%40DATE%3E%3D20140000&Sect4=AND&l=50&Sect6=HITOFF&Sect5=AGEN1&Sect3=2F~public%2Fagen1.htm&r=1&f=G)

Please check out 15now.org for more information.



Councilmember Kshama Sawant shared a link via 15 Now.

March 8

Check out this article covering last Wednesday's Town Hall on raising the minimum wage. It discusses the next steps in the Fight for 15: building Neighborhood Action Groups, the March for 15 on March 15th, and an April 26th "Onto the Ballot and Into the Streets" Conference! Learn more about how you can get involved in this historic movement.



Seattle Council hearing: "That's why I support $15"

www.15now.org

Donate to 15now.org

CONTACT ORGANIZER

Like Share 52 g+1 1 Tweet 7

Information

2014 is the year to pass a $15/hour minimum wage in Seattle, and a victory in Seattle would spur on the fight for a living wage nationally. But, it's not going to happen without you. We need to build a powerful grassroots movement. Big business will ferociously oppose a $15/hour minimum wage. In reality, the battle is just beginning and we need your help right away to prepare.

Taking on big business will require significant resources. Our initial goal is to sign up 1,000 people to donate at least $15/month. This will help provide the start-up funding to organize a vigorous grassroots campaign, produce literature, organize rallies, and run a dynamic website.

2

Campaign and Lobbying Activities

So, I am inviting you to be one of the first people to sign up to be a contributor to 15now.org.

In Solidarity,
Kshama Sawant
Seattle City Council Member

1

Blurred lines - Socialist Alternative/$15Now/Councilmember Sawant?

Suggested Donations

$100.00 Click to donate $100.00.

$30.00 Click to donate $30.00.

$15.00 Click to donate $15.00.

$ 0.00 Donate

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Initial Endorsers

Recent Posts

Report from Neighborhood Action Groups March 3, 2014

March 5th: First public hearing on $15 minimum wage will set precedent! February 28, 2014

15 Now Action Groups: Building the Fight for 15 in your neighborhood February 28, 2014

Report from Feb. 15th Day of Organizing February 24, 2014

15 Now Action Groups: Kick-off meetings this weekend February 21, 2014

Boycott McPoverty on Feb. 20th! February 19, 2014

15 Now Establishes Ties with Raise the Wage Davis February 17, 2014

Feb. 15th Day of Organizing a Wild Success! February 17, 2014

Program for Feb. 15 February 15, 2014

Jill Stein, James Bible, David Rolf & Kshama Sawant to Speak at Feb. 15th Rally For $15/Hour! February 12, 2014

National Endorsers

Noam Chomsky, *Professor Emeritus at Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Tom Morello, *Rage Against the Machine* (see solidarity statement)*

Jill Stein, *Green Party Presidential Candidate 2012 (see solidarity statement)*

Dan Savage, *It Gets Better Project* and author of Savage Love*

Cindy Sheehan, *Anti-war Activist, Peace and Freedom Party* Vice-Presidential Candidate 2012*

Cheri Honkala, *Green Party Vice-Presidential Candidate 2012, Co-founder of Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign**

Howie Hawkins, *Green Party Candidate for NY Governor 2012*

Steve Early, *Labor Journalist*

David McLanahan, *Co-founder & Coordinator of Physicians for a National Healthcare Program**

Ty Moore, *Socialist Alternative, former Minneapolis City Council Candidate 2013*

Paul Street, *Journalist & Author*

Glen Ford, *Black Agenda Report* & Black Agenda Radio**

Matt Gonzalez, *Former President of San Francisco City Council**

Seattle Area Endorsers

Kshama Sawant, *Seattle City Council Member, Socialist Alternative*

Carlos Hernandez, *Seattle Fast Food Worker Movement Leader*

Abdi Mohamed, *Working Washington, Organizer for Sea-Tac Prop. 1* ($15/hr minimum wage), Somali American Public Affairs Council*

Nicole Grant, *Vice President of Washington State Labor Council**

Sergio Salinas, *SEIU Local 6 President*

Yasmin Aden, *SEIU 6 Secretary Treasurer*

Paul Bigman, *Martin Luther King Jr. Central Labor Council* Executive Board Member*

Richard Burton, *Washington State Nurses Association* Political Action Coordinator*

Gerald Hankerson, *President of NAACP Seattle/King County* & Alaska, Oregon, Washington State Area Conference* (see solidarity statement)*

Lauren Berkowitz, *Burien City Council**

Sally Soriano, *Former Seattle School Board Member (2004-2007)*

Lee Seese, *Pastor at Mount Baker Park Presbyterian Church**

Robby Stern, *Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action President*

Rich Lang, *Pastor at University Temple United Methodist Church* & Real Change* Columnist*

Juan Bocanegra, *El Comité Pro Reforma Migratoria Y Justicia Social*

Dorli Rainey, *Longtime Seattle Activist & Peaceful*

Michael Niguse, *Eritrean Community Center**

Philip Locker, *Socialist Alternative Spokesperson*

Katie Wilson, *Transit Riders Union General Secretary*

Dorsol Plants, *Former Seattle City Council* Candidate*

Justin Simmons, *Metropolitan Democratic Club* Former Executive Director*

Joey Gray, *Former Seattle Mayoral Candidate*

Alan Lloyd, *Seattle Green Party Activist*

Claude Ginsberg, *Seattle Green Party Activist*

William Bass, *Seattle Green Party Activist*

Toby Thaler, *Fremont Neighborhood Council**

Kyle Lucas, *Former Member of Tumwater City**

Bill Yates, *Puget Sound*

Luther King Jr. Central Labor Council Executive Board Member*

Richard Burton, *Washington State Nurses Association* Political Action Coordinator*

Julianna Kreuger Dauble, *Washington Education Association* Political Action Committee Board Manager*

Kimberly McCrae, *American Federation of Teachers Local 1789* President*

Angela Marshall, *IBEW Local 46 Press Secretary*

Doug Neilson, *WFSE 1488* Shop Steward & E-Board Member*

Larry Gossett, *King County Councilmember**

Methodist Church & Real Change* Columnist*

Juan Bocanegra, *El Comité Pro Reforma Migratoria Y Justicia Social*

Dorli Rainey, *Longtime Seattle Activist & Peaceful Occupy Protester Maced by Seattle Police*

Aaron Dixon, *Co-Founder of Black Panther Party Seattle Chapter*

Geov Parrish, *Journalist & Community Activist, Former Columnist for The Stranger* & Seattle Weekly**

Celso Tolman,*Filipino American Political Action Group of WA**

Stacia Jenkins, *Normandy Park City Council**

William Bass, *Seattle Green Party Activist*

Toby Thaler, *Fremont Neighborhood Council**

Kyle Lucas, *Former Member of Tumwater City**

Bill Yates, *Puget Sound Democratic Socialists of America* Committee Member*

Thomas Lavigne, *Attorney at Cannabis Counsel PLC Law Firm**

Rob Crawford, *Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture* Spokesperson*

Alan Stewart, *Progressive Global Commons* Managing Director*

Sue Peters, *Seattle School Board* Director*

Jesse Hagopian, *Teacher at Garfield High School*, Rethinking Schools* Associate Editor*

Like 50 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

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All Out For 15 Conference

« All Events

All Out For 15 Conference

April 26

This is the launching of our signature-gathering campaign to put a $15/hr initiative on the ballot. Come discuss the campaign, get trained, and start organizing in your community! More details to come...

Details

Date:
APRIL 26, 2014

« March For

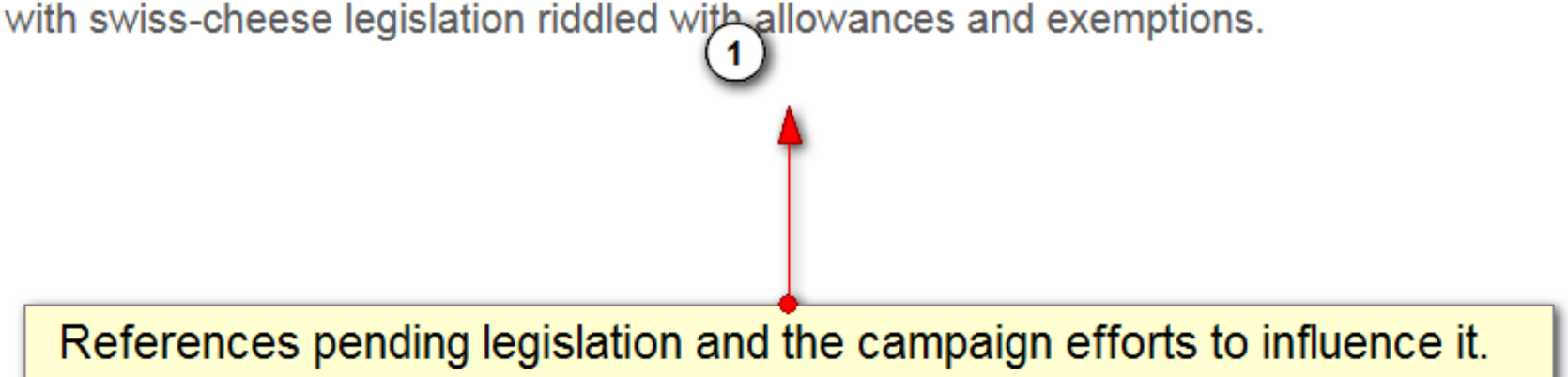
May Day March »

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The February 15th Day of Organizing was a great success, with Action Groups being initiated in every district in Seattle. It was standing room only in SEIU 775's downtown headquarters, as 400 people took part throughout the day.

$15 is on everybody's lips, from working people on the streets, to the Seattle Times, to Mayor Ed Murray and the Seattle City Council (and not just Council member Kshama Sawant). A poll recently revealed 68% of likely Seattle voters support $15 *without delay and without exemptions*. But those in attendance on the 15th understood that we can't sit back and passively expect City Hall to pass $15/hr legislation just because it's popular. The only reason this issue made it onto the agenda at City Hall was because of action in the streets, ranging from fast food strikes to the successful labor-backed initiative in SeaTac and the truly grassroots campaign to elect Kshama Sawant to Seattle City Council.

Now that the establishment cannot avoid this issue, our task is to make sure that the legislation City Hall puts forward isn't just $15 in name only, with swiss-cheese legislation riddled with allowances and exemptions.



---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Kshama Sawant <info@15now.org>
Date: Tue, Dec 17, 2013 at 2:22 PM
Subject: Fight for a $15/hr minimum wage

Hi

Thank you for signing up with 15now.org. We have very exciting plans in the works for next year. Important announcements will be coming soon and we will be sure to keep you updated.

2014 is the year to pass a $15/hour minimum wage in Seattle, and a victory in Seattle would spur on the fight for a living wage nationally. But, it's not going to happen without you. We need to build a powerful grassroots movement. Big business will ferociously oppose a $15/hour minimum wage. In reality, the battle is just beginning and we need your help right away to prepare.

Taking on big business will require significant resources. We aim to sign up 1,000 people to donate at least $15/month. This will help provide the funding to organize a vigorous grassroots campaign, produce literature, organize rallies, and run a dynamic website.

So, I am inviting you to be one of the first people to sign up to be a contributor to 15now.org. *Click here to donate <https://www.wepay.com/donations/donate-to-15-now_2>*.

In Solidarity,

*Kshama Sawant **Seattle City Council Member-elect*

Date: Mon, 17 Feb 2014 14:36:14 -0800

Subject: 15 Now District Action Group Meetings
From: Fifteen Now <fifteen.now@gmail.com>
To: undisclosed-recipients:;
Content-Type: multipart/alternative; boundary=047d7b3a905e7c83b004f2a1c898

Hi Everyone!

Saturday was an amazing day of organizing, education, and music. Check out the media coverage of our event!<http://15now.org/feb-15th-day-of-organizing-a-wild-success/>

15 Now's number one goal for February 15th was to begin building District Action Groups (and in Districts where the turnout was large, to begin forming Neighborhood Action Groups), to bring *15 Now* supporters together and begin a conversation about how each community can build the Fight for 15.

To kick off these new groups, *15 Now* will post the first meeting times and locations on our website, in addition to all of the workshop material - from both the education and action workshops.

If you set a date and time for your first district group meeting, please respond to this email with the information so that we can share it and help build your group.

Many thanks to you all for a truly successful day of grassroots movement building. I look forward to working with you all.

Onward!
Jess Spear
15 Now Organizing Director

From: 15 Now <Jess.Spear@15now.org>
Date: March 5, 2014 at 8:30:00 AM PST
Subject: TONIGHT - Speak Out Against 'Swiss Cheese' Plan for $15
Reply-To: 15 Now <Jess.Spear@15now.org>



Public Hearing on $15

March 5th, 6-8pm at Town Hall Seattle, 1119 8th Ave. Seattle, WA

RSVP and invite your friends!

Arrive at 5pm to sign up on the speakers list, hearing begins at 6pm.

"We are not interested in a measure that is 15 in name only but has more holes than Swiss cheese." ***- Socialist City Councilmember Kshama Sawant***

Big business has lost the debate on $15. But, the fight for 15 is not over. What big business lost in the public forum, they will try to take back at the negotiating table by attempting to force endless loopholes into the minimum wage law.
The corporate media in recent weeks has gone on the offensive against $15, with the same talk of economic apocalypse used to oppose the WA State minimum wage law.
We must stand firm. We support a full $15/hour for all Seattle workers. Below are 3 key issues

being debated:

1. **No tip penalty.** A tip penalty system means employers are allowed to pay employees less than the minimum wage if they receive tips. This exploitative practice was already rejected in Washington State, and would be a step backward for Seattle workers. A minimum wage is the base, all tips and benefits must be on top of that.
2. **No workers excluded.** Workers in certain industries, or at small businesses or nonprofits should not be exempted from receiving a $15 minimum wage. Regardless of where we work we all face the same steep costs of living. Small businesses and non-profits must be supported, but not on the backs of their workers. Big business needs to be taxed to ensure full funding for human services and a subsidies for small businesses in genuine need.
3. **No delay.** Seattle Mayor Ed Murray has discussed phasing in $15 over a number of years. Workers do not have the luxury of phasing in their rent payments. The rent is due now, so we demand a full $15 now!



Don't forget to RSVP & invite your friends!



Build the Fight for $15! Get Active with your local Action Group



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Our mailing address is:
15 Now
1265 S Main St
Seattle, WA 98144

From: 15now.org <info@15now.org>
Date: March 6, 2014 at 3:11:15 PM PST
Subject: Register today for 15Now conference on April 26th!
Reply-To: 15now.org <info@15now.org>

Use this area to offer a short preview of your email's content.

View this email in your browser



Register today for the 15 Now Conference!
April 26th - Seattle, WA

Across the country low-wage workers are rising up for a $15/hour minimum wage. In Seattle the movement is poised to be the first major U.S. city to achieve $15. But what will it take to win? Big business is now launching an attack on $15 and they will fight tooth and nail to maintain their profits on the backs of working people.
We cannot rely on the political establishment – either the Mayor's minimum wage advisory committee or the City Council – to deliver a real $15/hour minimum wage. Only by building a powerful grassroots movement that keeps up the pressure can we win. The April 26 conference will be critical for all those committed to the fight for $15 to attend. It is timed to allow us to come together to review the results of the Mayor's recommendations to City Council and draw up plans for the next stage of the movement. The Conference will also launch – if needed – a drive to collect 50,000 signatures for a ballot initiative for a real $15 an hour minimum wage for all workers.
The Conference will bring together low-wage workers, 15 Now Action Groups, unions, Occupy activists and community organizations from Seattle and across the country in an exciting day to educate, share our experiences, and hammer out a strategy to win $15 in Seattle and nationally.

Register Now!

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From: 15 Now <Jess.Spear@15now.org>
Date: March 7, 2014 at 3:35:57 PM PST
Subject: Keep Up the Pressure - Join 15 Now in the streets March 15th
Reply-To: 15 Now <Jess.Spear@15now.org>





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Want to volunteer? Email us today!



JOIN in the WEEK OF ACTION

International Women's Day

- **Seattle, with Kshama Sawant speaking**
  Sat. March 8, 11:00am, Pratt Park to Hing-Hay Park 1800 S. Main St. Seattle
- **Tacoma**

  Sat. March 8th, 2pm

  S. 23rd and Union Ave. Tacoma, WA

Bussin' for 15!

- Sat. March 8, 2pm, Columbia City Library 4721 Rainier Ave S

Banner Drops

- Mon. March 10, 8am, MLK & Rainier Pedestrian Bridge
- Tues. March 11, 7:30am, Albro St Bridge, Meet at All City Coffee
- Fri. March 14, 8am, MLK & Rainier Pedestrian Bridge

Tabling/Flyering

- Thurs. March 13, 4-6pm, Othello



Link Light Rail Station

Fight Subpay at Subway

- Picket, Sun. March 9, 11am Subway on Broadway

Banner Construction

- Sat. March 8, 2-4pm, Blakeley Manor (2401 NE Blakeley St)

Keep Calm and Bar Hop for $15

Sponsored by WA YELL: Thurs. March 13th, 6:00pm.

Meet at Ozzie's on Queen Anne, 105 W Mercer St, Seattle, WA 98119 at 6:00 P.M.
Can't meet us at Ozzie's….no problem! We will be checking-in on Facebook and Twitter at each location. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter at Washington YELL!



Upcoming Action Group Meetings

District 2 / Mon. March 10, 7:30pm
Location TBD
Central District / March 7, 6:30pm
Lawrence Lofts (1818 E Madison St.,

rooftop community room)
UW Action Group / Thurs. March 13, 5:30pm UW-Thomson Hall 134
District 5 / Fri. March 7, 6pm 11201 Fremont Ave North
District 6 / Sunday Mar. 9th, 3:30pm Greenwood Library (8016 Greenwood Ave N)



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Our mailing address is:
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1265 S Main St
Seattle, WA 98144

From: 15 Now <Jess.Spear@15now.org>
Date: March 11, 2014 at 11:54:11 AM PDT
Subject: Let's Make History - THIS Saturday March for $15!
Reply-To: 15 Now <Jess.Spear@15now.org>





WHAT: March for $15
WHEN: Sat. March 15th / 1PM March / 2:30 Rally
WHERE: Convene at Judkins Park, March to Seattle Central Community College

At last week's public hearing on $15, Seattle workers made it known – they need and deserve a minimum wage of $15. This followed a poll showing 68% of Seattle voters support a full $15 now.

Combine that with the passage of Seatac Prop 1, the election of Kshama Sawant, who boldly campaigned for $15, and Mayor Murray, who has pledged Seattle will be the first major city in the U.S. to have $15, and **what we have is a "historic moment" to win a major victory for working people**.

Winning $15 minimum wage will improve the lives of tens of thousands of workers and their families, and revive our small businesses and local economy. **A win in Seattle can begin to turn the tide and spark a national movement for better wages, working conditions, and**

unionization.

But, this victory is not guaranteed. This moment could slip through our fingers. **Big business has begun to fight back**. They are pushing hard to legalize wage theft through a "tip penalty" as well as other maneuvers to undermine $15 with loopholes and delays. They will use all their power – money, political access, and media – to stop us.

Winning $15 in 2014 will require *your* active participation. We will never be able to outspend business, but we have something far more powerful than money, we have the people power.

Join us this Saturday for the March for $15 on March 15th. *The $15 for Seattle* coalition is organizing a 1,000-strong march from Judkins Park to Seattle Central Community College. Please mark your calendar and be sure to urge your friends and family to join you. RSVP here.



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