

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Employment Services

VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR



F. THOMAS LUPARELLO
DIRECTOR

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Media Contact: Stephanie Reich
(202) 671-1673 (O)
(202) 427-5731 (C)

District of Columbia Requires DC Contractors to Repay Unpaid Living Wages *DOES Strengthens Efforts to Enforce Living Wage Collections*

Washington, DC – Mayor Vincent C. Gray announced today that the District of Columbia government has directed several DC contractors to pay back a total of \$2,840,270 to 1,314 impacted employees who were entitled to receive the 2013 living wage rate of \$13.50 per hour, but were underpaid. The Department of Employment Services (DOES) has negotiated retroactive payments for the living wage associated amounts for FY 2013-2014.

Under the Living Wage Act of 2006, District of Columbia government contractors and recipients of government assistance (e.g., grants, loans, tax increment financing) in the amount of \$100,000 or more shall pay affiliated employees no less than the current living wage rate. Subcontractors of DC government contractors who receive \$15,000 or more from the contract and subcontractors of the recipients of government assistance who receive \$50,000 or more from the assistance are required to pay their employees no less than the current living wage.

“Strengthening our compliance and enforcement protocols is crucial to achieving fiscal responsibility and accountability for our employees who are entitled to receive their fair share of the living wage,” said Mayor Gray. **“Everyone wins when we make it easier for District employees to be made whole through better enforcement of employers. I am confident that the Department of Employment Services will work diligently to continue with its compliance efforts.”**

The agency negotiated corporate agreements with six (6) District government contractors who have agreed to pay retroactive living wages in amounts ranging from \$68,420 to \$419,008. This is a significant proactive step to ensure that impacted workers receive their fair share of the allotted living wage.

DOES Director Tom Luparello noted that tracking down wage violations, theft, and fraud is an agency priority. “The agency has worked very closely with the District Council and Members of the Committee on Business, Consumer, and Regulatory Affairs, chaired by Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr., to enforce compliance with the District’s wage laws,” said Director Luparello. “We are glad our concerted efforts are producing positive and equitable results for the impacted employees.”

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About DOES:

The mission of the Department of Employment Services is to plan, develop, and administer employment-related services to all segments of the Washington, DC metropolitan population. We achieve our mission through empowering and sustaining a diverse workforce, which enables all sectors of the community to achieve economic and social stability.