

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-189

**A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE CAMPAIGN TO END WAGE THEFT
IN SANTA FE COUNTY**

WHEREAS, wage theft, the practice of nonpayment or underpayment of wages to workers in our community, denies workers and their families economic prosperity and financial security;

WHEREAS, wage theft occurs when employers fail to pay the minimum wage, fail to pay overtime, require employees to work "off the clock", fail to disburse final paychecks, or misclassify workers as independent contractors to avoid paying their portion of payroll taxes, overtime, workers' comp, and benefits;

WHEREAS, wage theft is a crime that often goes unreported or unprosecuted;

WHEREAS, wage theft has a disproportionate impact on low-wage working families that live paycheck-to-paycheck, especially during tough economic times;

WHEREAS, workers who are victims of wage theft spend less in our local economy, are often forced to choose among basic necessities like food, clothing, healthcare, transportation and shelter, and often need to rely on emergency public services and charities to make ends meet;

WHEREAS, wage theft causes unnecessary stress and financial hardship for workers and their children;

WHEREAS, employers who engage in this unscrupulous behavior undercut ethical businesses that are following the rules, putting them at an unfair disadvantage;

WHEREAS, the State Legislature passed a law in 2009 that provides protection against retaliation to workers who are victims of wage theft and additional penalties to employers who

do not pay their workers the wages they owe;

WHEREAS, the City of Santa Fe boasts one of the highest living wages in the country, and employers who do not pay the minimum wage undermine the letter and spirit of the City's Living Wage Ordinance;

WHEREAS, wage theft creates a hostile working environment and undermines the ability of workers to promote healthy, safe, respectful and productive working conditions; and

WHEREAS, Santa Fe County abhors wage theft and strongly supports the dignity of workers in the workplace and in our community.

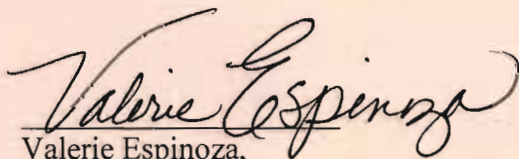
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Santa Fe County supports efforts by community, labor and faith organizations, the New Mexico Attorney General, the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions, and the U.S. Department of Labor to eliminate the practice of wage theft in the state.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 13TH DECEMBER day of 2011.

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF SANTA FE COUNTY**


Virginia Vigil, Chair

Attest:


Valerie Espinoza,
County Clerk

