



Living wage complaint filed by L.A. carwash workers

Tuesday, October 14, 2008

LOS ANGELES — Employees at the Auto Spa Express have filed a living wage complaint with the city of Los Angeles, claiming they were underpaid, the **Los Angeles Times** reported.

The Oct. 9 story said one carwash employee, Jose Eduardo Gonzales, stated he was paid \$56 for 10 to 12-hour work days, meaning he only made about \$5.09 an hour. According to the living wage law, workers are supposed to receive at least \$11.25 an hour.

The manager of the Auto Spa Express, Alexandro Herrera, said his workers are paid minimum wage and he is unaware of the living wage requirements.

The *Los Angeles Times* has been investigating area carwashes and whether employees have been treated fairly for almost eight months now. According to a March 28 story by **The Los Angeles Times**, the AFL-CIO and the United Steelworkers have banded together to "clean up" the carwash industry and protect the 18,000 **carwash employees who they claim are underpaid in Southern California**.

In California, following several protests and calls to unionize carwash workers, members of the Los Angeles City Council voted **unanimously to support local carwash workers** earlier this month. *Professional Carwashing & Detailing's* September cover story, "**What California can teach us**," available online, offers advice to other carwash operators who may deal with government investigations and labor regulations.

To read the complete story, click **here**.

For related information, click **here**.

Comment by CW Consultant & California Real Estate Broker Jack Muellerleile:

"The above report further supports the reasons full service carwash developers / owners / operators have flocked to me asking that I locate for them one or more qualified sites for development as an EXPRESS Exterior Tunnel Carwash...a concept run by just three (3) employees AT PEAK BUSINESS HOURS."