

Turner, Nicole

From: Turner, Nicole
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 4:31 PM
To: Turner, Nicole
Subject: Public Comment

Public comment

My name is Eric Hall.

I am an AFSCME union member and a community health outreach worker for the health and human services mobile outreach program
I'm a member of the team that is working to end homelessness in our county.

I get thanked a lot for my job, told that I'm appreciated and reminded that I'm actively saving lives, but this comes at a cost of my own physical, mental emotional health

In the 4 of years that I've been with this program not a day goes by that I haven't heard a sad story.

My team has been assaulted. we've had dogs sicker on us, been exposed to hazardous chemicals and illicit drugs, we've been harassed and one of my coworkers even had a jar of ticks spilled on him.

in light of this, I am committed to the job despite the secondary trauma i absorb on a daily basis

I honestly feel like we are making a difference in our community,
All for the low starting wage of less than a fast food worker.

I don't want to come here to complain about the budget,

I'm here to talk to you about an opportunity that will come before you, a way to make the county a desirable place to work again, to show respect and dignity to the people who work here, and help alleviate the mental stress upon our county workers at no additional cost to wages.

The 32 hour work week with no loss on pay is real, it is happening, and if you're serious about creative solutions, it will start in this county January of 2025.

if your not serious about this opportunity then I request that all management and executives board members in the county take a pay raise freeze for the next two years. Nothing will do more to demoralize the scores of county workers who have been told they will not get a raise, to then see their managers get a raise added onto the living wages leadership already enjoys.

As a line worker I am not in the position to be an administrator warning of a budget crisis that only I can handle if I get a 10% more pay increase

I am not in the position of being a planning director who gets to quit my job to work elsewhere and then to get rehired with a 15% pay bump

However I am in a position to come to you today to tell you some hard truths and create opportunities.

I do more outside my job than just save the day for some of our most desperate citizens

I am a husband, father and property taxpayer in the third district. I am also a an adventure guide for Cal poly Humboldt, because, second jobs are needed in this economy. Yet still, my household struggles to keep up with the cost of living.

With a 32 hour work week I will be able to save \$200 a month in daycare and fuel expensive

With a 32 hour work week, I will be able to handle medical needs without using sick time

With a 32 hour work week my mental health will stabilize and I will continue to be able to do my job to the best of my abilities

With a 32 hour work week you will have countless people competing for jobs at the county.

With a 32 hour work week, I can offer another day of instruction for my second job

I will also be able to dedicate time to household chores, so I maximize my time on the weekends with what is really most important to me, my children.

Give me the extra time to keep up with the requirements of life outside of work, so I can dedicate more time to being the father my children deserve.

Eric Hall

"The universe is not only stranger than we imagine, it is stranger than we CAN imagine."

-Arthur Eddington