



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**CONSUMER &  
BUSINESS AFFAIRS**

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## MEDIA RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*  
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### **Valencia Hotel Agrees to Pay Over \$110,000 in Back Wages and Fines After Investigation by L.A. County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs**

LOS ANGELES – The owners of the chain-branded hotel, **Hilton Garden Inn, Valencia Six Flags**, have agreed to pay over \$10,000 in back wages and \$100,000 in fines resulting from violations of Los Angeles County’s minimum wage ordinance.

The agreement comes after an investigation by the Los Angeles County Department of Consumer and Business Affairs’ Wage Enforcement Program revealed the hotel had underpaid 40 employees for a six-month period in 2016. The hotel failed to correct the underpayments for over two years until the investigation. The hotel owners admitted to violating the County’s minimum wage laws and agreed to pay \$50,000 of the total fines directly to the employees.

“The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs is committed to the principle that every worker must be paid fairly and promptly as required by law,” said Joseph M. Nicchitta, Director of the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs. “Underpayments of any amount can compound the financial difficulties minimum wage earners experience daily. There is no excuse for failing to pay your employees the correct wage.”

The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs enforces the minimum wage in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. The current minimum wage for people who perform work in unincorporated Los Angeles County is \$14.25 an hour for businesses with 26 or more employees and \$13.25 for businesses with 25 or fewer employees.

The Department of Consumer and Business Affairs works with business owners to educate them about the obligations under applicable wage laws and takes complaints from employees who believe their rights are being violated at work. A failure to comply with applicable wage laws can result in substantial fines.

If you work in unincorporated Los Angeles County and believe you are not being paid the correct minimum wage, contact the Department of Consumer and Business Affairs at (800) 593-8222 or visit [dcba.lacounty.gov/minimum-wage](http://dcba.lacounty.gov/minimum-wage). We also encourage business owners to contact us for information on compliance or to receive printed materials and required postings free of charge.



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*Since 1976, the County of Los Angeles Department of Consumer and Business Affairs (DCBA) has served consumers, businesses, and communities through education, advocacy, and complaint resolution. We work every day to educate consumers and small business owners about their rights and responsibilities, mediate disputes, investigate consumer fraud complaints, and enforce Los Angeles County's minimum wage and rent stabilization ordinances. For more information, visit [dcbalacounty.gov](http://dcbalacounty.gov).*

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