



For Immediate Release: 08.07.09

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Citizen commission to discuss living wage

Public input is being sought on the practicability of a living wage ordinance in the Village of Oak Park.

The [Community Relations Commission \(CRC\)](#), which advises the [Village Board](#) on issues related to fair treatment, will discuss the living wage concept at its regular monthly meeting, scheduled for 7:15 p.m., Wed., Aug. 19, at [Village Hall](#), 123 Madison St.

Commissioners say they hope to hear comments from both sides of the living wage debate – the moral question and the economic realities of mandating pay levels.

Some [60 percent of Oak Park voters approved the concept](#) of a living wage in a nonbinding referendum last November, prompting the Village Board to charge the CRC with investigating what policy actions, if any, should be taken.

A living wage is defined generally as income sufficient for a worker and family to subsist comfortably in a particular community.

However, businesses owners and employers contend that income needed to live in one community may not be the same as how much workers are paid for services they provide in communities where they do not reside.

The CRC meeting is intended to gather public input by fostering discussion. The CRC will prepare a report of its findings for the Village Board later in the year. This public meeting is but one element of the CRC's review process.

For more information on the meeting, call 708.358.358.5405 or e-mail community@oak-park.us.

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