CITY OF SEATTLE 1 2 ORDINANCE _____ COUNCIL BILL 3 4 ..title 5 AN ORDINANCE relating to employment in Seattle; requiring certain employers to take certain 6 actions to prevent, protect, and respond to violent or harassing conduct by guests; adding 7 a new Chapter 14.26 to the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC); and amending Sections 8 3.15.000 and 6.208.020 of the SMC. 9 10 ..body 11 WHEREAS, the City has identified a need to provide immediate protection to low-wage hotel 12 employees by passing a package of new labor standards ordinances; NOW, 13 THEREFORE, 14 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS: Section 1. A new Chapter 14.26 is added to the Seattle Municipal Code as follows: 15 CHAPTER 14.26 PROTECTING HOTEL EMPLOYEES FROM VIOLENT OR 16 17 HARASSING CONDUCT 14.26.010 Short title 18 19 This Chapter 14.26 shall constitute the "Hotel Employees Safety Protections Ordinance" and 20 may be cited as such. 21 **14.26.020 Definitions** 22 For the purposes of this Chapter 14.26: "Adverse action" means denying a job or promotion, demoting, terminating, failing to 23 rehire after a seasonal interruption of work, threatening, penalizing, engaging in unfair 24 25 immigration-related practices, filing a false report with a government agency, changing an 26 employee's status to a nonemployee, or otherwise discriminating against any person for any 1 Template last revised November 13, 2018

reason prohibited by Section 14.26.120. "Adverse action" for an employee may involve any aspect of employment, including pay, work hours, responsibilities or other material change in the terms and conditions of employment;

"Agency" means the Office of Labor Standards and any division therein;

"Aggrieved party" means an employee or other person who suffers tangible or intangible harm due to an employer or other person's violation of this Chapter 14.26;

"Ancillary hotel business" means any business that (1) routinely contracts with the hotel for services in conjunction with the hotel's purpose; (2) leases or sublets space at the site of the hotel for services in conjunction with the hotel's purpose; or (3) provides food and beverages, to hotel guests and to the public, with an entrance within the hotel premises (a) food or beverage business with one or more of the following characteristics: (i) operates from a physical location that is within a hotel, (ii) has direct interior access to the hotel, or (iii) both abuts the hotel and is an amenity to the hotel guests; or (b) business that contracts with the hotel to provide guest lodging, housekeeping, room service, laundry, parking, events, conventions, or other services related to the hotel's core function;

"City" means the City of Seattle;

"Compensation" means payment owed to an employee by reason of employment including, but not limited to, salaries, wages, tips, overtime, commissions, piece rate, bonuses, rest breaks, promised or legislatively required pay or paid leave, and reimbursement for employer expenses. For reimbursement for employer expenses, an employer shall indemnify the employee for all necessary expenditures or losses incurred by the employee in direct consequence of the discharge of the employee's duties, or of the employee's obedience to the

directions of the employer, even though unlawful, unless the employee, at the time of obeying the directions, believed them to be unlawful;

"Counselor, advisor or advocate" means a person who gives advice or guidance and includes, but is not limited to, family members, friends, licensed professionals, attorneys, support advocates personscommunity advocates under Section 14.26.090.C, crime victim advocates under RCW 7.69.030, and other advocates;

"Director" means the Director of the Office of Labor Standards or the Director's designee;

"Employ" means to suffer or permit to work;

"Employee" means "employee" as defined under Section 12A.28.200, including but not limited to full-time employees, part-time employees, and temporary workers. An alleged employer bears the burden of proof that the individual is, as a matter of economic reality, in business for oneself (i.e. independent contractor) rather than dependent upon the alleged employer;

"Employer" means any individual, partnership, association, corporation, business trust, or any entity, person or group of persons, or a successor thereof, that employs another person and includes any such entity or person acting directly or indirectly in the interest of the employer in relation to the employee. More than one entity may be the "employer" if employment by one employer is not completely disassociated from employment by any other employer;

"Hotel" means a hotel or motel, as defined in Section 23.84A.024, containing 60 or more guest rooms or suites of rooms suitable for providing lodging to members of the public for a fee, regardless of how many of those rooms or suites are occupied or in commercial use at any given time:

"Panic button" means an emergency contact device that an employee may easily carry and activate. When activated, the panic button must summon immediate on-scene assistance from another employee, security guard, or representative of the employer to the employee's specific location;

_"Physical injury," "bodily injury," and "bodily harm" have the same meanings as provided in Section 12A.02.150.

"Rate of inflation" means 100 percent of the annual average growth rate of the bimonthly Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue Area Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, termed CPI-W, for the 12 month period ending in August, provided that the percentage increase shall not be less than zero;

"Respondent" means an employer or any person who is alleged to have committed a violation of this Chapter 14.26;

"Successor" means any person to whom an employer quitting, selling out, exchanging, or disposing of a business sells or otherwise conveys in bulk and not in the ordinary course of the employer's business, a major part of the property, whether real or personal, tangible or intangible, of the employer's business. For purposes of this definition, "person" means any individual, receiver, administrator, executor, assignee, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm, corporation, business trust, partnership, limited liability partnership, company, joint stock company, limited liability company, association, joint venture, or any other legal or commercial entity;

"Violent or harassing conduct" means conduct that a reasonable person would characterize as "assault," "harassment," "sexual contact" without "consent," and "indecent exposure" as those terms are defined under the Revised Code of Washington: causing physical

injury, bodily injury, or bodily harm; threatening to cause physical injury, bodily injury, or

bodily harm; unwelcome or inappropriate sexual remarks or sexual contact; intentional exposure

of nudity; intimidation; or similar conduct.

14.26.030 Employee coverage

For the purposes of this Chapter 14.26, covered employees are limited to those who perform work for a covered employer at a hotel or an ancillary hotel business in the City.

14.26.040 Employer coverage

For the purposes of this Chapter 14.26, covered employers are limited to those who either (a) own, control, or operate a hotel in the City or (b) own, control, or operate an ancillary hotel business in the City with 50 or more employees worldwide regardless of where those employees are employed, including but not limited to chains, integrated enterprises, or franchises associated with a franchisor or network of franchises that employee 50 or more employees in aggregate.

Covered employers are also limited to those who are party to a transfer document that effects a change in control and are either (a) an outgoing hotel employer or (b) an incoming hotel employer.

B. To determine the number of employees for the current calendar year, the calculation shall be based upon:

1. The average number per calendar week of employees who worked for compensation during the preceding calendar year for any and all weeks during which at least one employee worked for compensation. For employers that did not have any employees during the previous calendar year, the number of employees will be calculated based upon the average number per calendar week of employees who worked for compensation during the first 90 calendar days of the current year in which the employer engaged in business; and

1	2. All employees who worked for compensation shall be counted, including but
2	not limited to:
3	a. Employees who are not covered by this Chapter 14.29;
4	b. Employees who worked inside the City;
5	c. Employees who worked outside the City; and
6	d. Employees who worked in full-time employment, part-time
7	employment, joint employment, temporary employment, or through the services of a temporary
8	services or staffing agency or similar entity.
9	C. Separate entities that form an integrated enterprise shall be considered a single
10	employer under this Chapter 14.29. Separate entities will be considered an integrated enterprise
11	and a single employer under this Chapter 14.29 where a separate entity controls the operation of
12	another entity. The factors to consider include, but are not limited to:
13	1. Degree of interrelation between the operations of multiple entities;
14	2. Degree to which the entities share common management;
15	3. Centralized control of labor relations; and
16	4. Degree of common ownership or financial control over the entities.
17	14.26.050 P roviding p anic buttons to employees
18	A. At no cost to the employee, an hotel employer shall provide a panic button to each
19	<u>hotel</u> employee assigned to work in a guest room or assigned to deliver items to a guest room.
20	B. A hotel employer shall provide access to a panic button to each employee of an
21	ancillary hotel business who is assigned to work in a guest's room or to make deliveries to a
22	guest's room. The employer shall provide access to the panic button at no cost to the ancillary
23	hotel business or to the employee of the ancillary hotel business.

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BC. When an hotel employee or an employee of an ancillary hotel business activates a panic button, the hotel employer must immediately deploy a security guard, hotel employer representative, or another hotel employee to render assistance.

DC. An employer shall not take adverse action against an employee for using the panic button to request on-scene assistance during an incident of actual or perceived violent or harassing conduct or other emergency in the employee's presence or for ceasing work and leaving an area of perceived danger to await assistance after activating the panic button.

D. As a time-limited measure, employers may provide a panic button to each employee that complies with state requirements for panic buttons under Senate Bill 5258 through December 31, 2020 and thereafter must provide a panic button to each employee that complies with all requirements of this Chapter 14.26.

14.26.060 Deterring assaults by notifying guests of employee protections

Law Protects Hotel Housekeepers and Other Employees From Violent Assault and Sexual Harassment," a citation to this Chapter 14.26, and notice that, in compliance with this Chapter 14.26, the hotel provides panic buttons to employees that are assigned to work in guest rooms. The sign shall be written clearly and legibly and in a font size of no less than 18-point. Signs that were installed on the back of each guest room prior to the effective date provided in Section 14.26.260 shall not be deemed to be out of compliance for referencing to Section 14.25 instead

14.26.070 Protecting employees from violent or harassing conduct by guests

signs are replaced after the effective date provide in Section 14.26.260.

- A. An employer must develop policies and institute procedures that prevent and address violent or harassing conduct by guests. At a minimum, an employer must:
- 1. Develop a written policy against violent or harassing conduct by guests. At a minimum, the policy must explain the employer's obligations under this Section 14.26.070;
- 2. Inform guests of this policy prior to or at time of guest check-in and through other means that may be addressed through Director's Rules for special circumstances; and
- 3. At hire and on an annual basis, inform employees of the policy, the employer's procedure for addressing allegations of violent or harassing conduct by guests, and how to report violent or harassing conduct by guests.
- B. When an employer receives an allegation or learns that a guest engaged in violent or harassing conduct towards an employee(s), the employer must immediately take the following actions:
- 1. Provide the accused guest with a written notice of the discontinuation of inroom guest services as at least the minimum steps taken to safeguard employees required under
 this subsection SMC 14.26.070.B.2;
- 2. Take immediate, preventative action necessary steps to safeguard employees from any future violent or harassing conduct by the guest. At a minimum, the employer shall not assign any employees to work in the guest's room or to make deliveries to the guest's room for the duration of the guest's current stay except as provided in subsection 14.26.080.B.3, and shall not provide the guest with in room services for the duration of the guest's current stay unless an investigation has determined that the alleged conduct did not occur;
- 3. For circumstances where room entry is appropriate, eEmployers may assign employees to enter a guest's room for the purpose of conducting a safety check following an

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1	allegation of violent or harassing conduct provided in subsection 14.26.080.B, provided however
2	that (a) any such assigned employees must be accompanied by a second employee and (b) any
3	such assigned employee may voluntarily decline such an assignment.
4	14.26.090 Protecting an employee who is the alleged victim of violent or harassing conduct
5	A. An employer must immediately take the following actions for an employee who is the
6	alleged victim of violent or harassing conduct by a guest:
7	1. <u>Upon the employee's request or consent, r</u> Reassign the employee to an
8	equivalent or better assignment on a different work floor or to a different work area if no
9	different work floor exists, for the entire duration of the guest's current stay. If an investigation
10	determines the alleged conduct did not occur, the employer must still maintain any reassignment
11	for the guest's current stay as long as such reassignment is consistent with any applicable
12	bargaining agreement.
13	2. Provide the employee with a copy of the written notice that was provided to the
14	accused guest under Section 14.26.070.B.1.
15	3. Provide the employee with the written documents established by Section
16	14.26.100.A.1-3 in English and in the employee's primary language.
17	a. Poster that gives notice of the rights afforded by this Chapter 14.26;
18	b. Notice of the right to a support advocate under subsection 14.26.090.C,
19	the right to a crime victim advocate and other rights of crime victims, survivors, and witnesses
20	under RCW 7.69.030, and the guidelines for investigations and services under the King County
21	Special Assault Protocol established pursuant to RCW 26.44.180 and RCW 26.44.185; and
22	c. Notice of the prohibitions against retaliation established in Section
23	14.26.120.

	Dan Eder & Karina Bull LEG Hotel Employees Safety Protections ORD D543		
1	violent or harassing conduct by a guest; helping to facilitate the employer's compliance with this		
2	Chapter 14.26; supporting the employee during an investigation; and serving as a resource for		
3	referrals to related legal and advocacy needs.		
4	2. An employee's access to support community advocate services is not		
5	contingent upon reporting an incident of violent or harassing conduct by a guest; an employee		
6	may access the services solely to assess options.		
7	3. The Agency shall include a description and contact information for support		
8	community advocate services on applicable outreach materials and shall inform employees and		
9	other parties about such services during applicable intake and investigative functions.		
10	14.26.100 Notice and posting		
11	A. The Agency shall create and make available the following written documents in		
12	English, Spanish, and other languages:		
13	1. Poster that gives notice of the rights afforded by this Chapter 14.26. The poster		
14	shall give notice of the right to:		
15	a. Receive a panic button when working in a guest room;		
16	b. Report violent or harassing conduct by a guest toward an employee;		
17	cb. Reassignment away from a guest accused of violent or harassing		
18	conduct;		
19	de. Right to access a support community advocate under Section		
20	14.26.090.C and crime victim advocate under RCW 7.69.030;		
21	ed. Paid time to work with law enforcement and to consult counselor,		
22	advisor or advocate, or other support person of the employee's choosing after a report of violent		
23	or harassing conduct by a guest;		
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fe. Protections from retaliation for exercising in good faith the rights protected by this Chapter 14.26;

gf. File a complaint with the Agency or bring a civil action for violation of the requirements of this Chapter 14.26.

- 2. Notice of the right to a support community advocate under subsection 14.26.090.C; the right to a crime victim advocate and other rights of crime victims, survivors, and witnesses under RCW 7.69.030; and the guidelines for investigations and services under the King County Special Assault Protocol established pursuant to RCW 26.44.180 and RCW 26.44.185. The notice shall include, but not be limited to the right to access a support community advocate or and crime victim advocate, the role of a support community advocates and crime victim advocates, and available contact information for support community advocates and crime victim advocates.
- 3. Notice of the prohibitions against retaliation, established in Section 14.26.120, for any right protected by this Chapter 14.26 and for any person who exercises in good faith the rights protected under this Chapter 14.26 regardless of the person's citizenship or immigration status.
- B. Employers shall display or distribute the written documents required by this Section 14.26.100.A as follows:
- 1. Employers shall display the poster in Section 14.26.100.A.1 in a conspicuous and accessible place at any workplace or job site where any of their employees work. Employers shall display the poster in English and in the primary language of the employee(s) at the particular workplace. Employers shall make a good faith effort to determine the primary languages of the employees at that particular workplace. If display of the poster is not feasible,

654. Records documenting paid time taken by each employee pursuant to under

report of violent or harassing conduct pursuant to under Section 14.26.090; and

Section 14.26.090;

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the right to inform the person's employer, union or similar organization, and/or the person's legal counsel or any other person about an alleged violation of this Chapter 14.26; the right to file an oral or written complaint with the Agency or bring a civil action for an alleged violation of this Chapter 14.26; the right to cooperate with the Agency in its investigations of this Chapter 14.26; the right to testify in a proceeding under or related to this Chapter 14.26; the right to refuse to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of city, state, or federal law; and the right to oppose any policy, practice, or act that is unlawful under this Chapter 14.26.

C. No employer or any other person shall communicate to a person exercising rights protected under this Section 14.26.120, directly or indirectly, the willingness to inform a government employee or contracted organization that the person is not lawfully in the United States, or to report, or to make an implied or express assertion of a willingness to report, suspected citizenship or immigration status of an employee or a family member of the employee to a federal, state, or local agency because the employee has exercised a right under this Chapter 14.26.

D. It shall be considered a rebuttable presumption of retaliation if the employer or any other person takes an adverse action against a person within 90 calendar days of the person's exercise of rights protected in this Section 14.26.120. However, in the case of seasonal employment that ended before the close of the 90 calendar day period, the presumption also applies if the employer fails to rehire a former employee at the next opportunity for work in the same position. The employer may rebut the presumption with clear and convincing evidence that the adverse action was taken for a permissible purpose.

E. Proof of retaliation under this Section 14.26.120 shall be sufficient upon a showing that the employer or any other person has taken an adverse action against a person and the

person's exercise of rights protected in this Section 14.26.120 was a motivating factor in the adverse action, unless the employer can prove that the action would have been taken in the absence of such protected activity.

F. The protections afforded under this Section 14.26.120 shall apply to any person who mistakenly but in good faith alleges violations of this Chapter 14.26.

G. A complaint or other communication by any person triggers the protections of this Section 14.26.120 regardless of whether the complaint or communication is in writing or makes explicit reference to this Chapter 14.26.

14.26.130 Enforcement power and duties

A. The Agency shall investigate violations of this Chapter 14.26, as defined herein, and shall have such powers and duties in the performance of these functions as are defined in this Chapter 14.26 and otherwise necessary and proper in the performance of the same and provided for by law.

B. The Agency shall be authorized to coordinate implementation and enforcement of this Chapter 14.26 and shall promulgate appropriate guidelines or rules for such purposes.

C. The Director of the Agency is authorized and directed to promulgate rules consistent with this Chapter 14.26 and Chapter 3.02. Any guidelines or rules promulgated by the Director shall have the force and effect of law and may be relied on by employers, employees, and other parties to determine their rights and responsibilities under this Chapter 14.26.

14.26.140 Violation

The failure of any respondent to comply with any requirement imposed on the respondent under this Chapter 14.26 is a violation.

14.26.150 Investigation

A. The Agency shall have the power to investigate any violations of this Chapter 14.26 by any respondent. The Agency may initiate an investigation pursuant to rules issued by the Director including, but not limited to, situations when the Director has reason to believe that a violation has occurred or will occur, or when circumstances show that violations are likely to occur within a class of businesses because either the workforce contains significant numbers of workers who are vulnerable to violations of this Chapter 14.26 or the workforce is unlikely to volunteer information regarding such violations. An investigation may also be initiated through the receipt by the Agency of a report or complaint filed by an employee or any other person.

- B. An employee or other person may report to the Agency any suspected violation of this Chapter 14.26. The Agency shall encourage reporting pursuant to this Section 14.26.150 by taking the following measures:
- 1. The Agency shall keep confidential, to the maximum extent permitted by applicable laws, the name and other identifying information of the employee or person reporting the violation. However, with the authorization of such person, the Agency may disclose the employee's or person's name and identifying information as necessary to enforce this Chapter 14.26 or for other appropriate purposes.
- 2. The Agency may require the employer to post or otherwise notify employees that the Agency is conducting an investigation, using a form provided by the Agency and displaying it on-site, in a conspicuous and accessible location, and in English and the primary language(s) of the employee(s) at the particular workplace. If display of the form is not feasible, including situations when the employee works remotely or does not have a regular workplace, the employer may provide the form on an individual basis in physical or electronic format that is reasonably conspicuous and accessible.

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3. The Agency may certify the eligibility of eligible persons for "U" visas under the provisions of 8 U.S.C. § 1184(p) and 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(15)(U). The certification is subject to applicable federal law and regulations, and rules issued by the Director.

C. The Agency's investigation must commence within three years of the alleged violation. To the extent permitted by law, the applicable statute of limitations for civil actions is tolled during any investigation under this Chapter 14.26 and any administrative enforcement proceeding under this Chapter 14.26 based upon the same facts. For purposes of this Chapter 14.26:

- 1. The Agency's investigation begins on the earlier date of when the Agency receives a complaint from a person under this Chapter 14.26, or the Agency provides notice to the respondent that an investigation has commenced under this Chapter 14.26.
- 2. The Agency's investigation ends when the Agency issues a final order concluding the matter and any appeals have been exhausted; the time to file any appeal has expired; or the Agency notifies the respondent in writing that the investigation has been otherwise resolved.
 - D. The Agency's investigation shall be conducted in an objective and impartial manner.
- E. The Director may apply by affidavit or declaration in the form allowed under RCW 9A.72.085 to the Hearing Examiner for the issuance of subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses, or any document relevant to the issue of whether any employee or group of employees has been or is afforded proper amounts of compensation under this Chapter 14.26 and/or to whether the employer has violated any provision of this Chapter 14.26. The Hearing Examiner shall conduct the review without hearing as soon as practicable and shall issue subpoenas upon a showing that there is reason to believe that a violation has occurred if a

complaint has been filed with the Agency, or that circumstances show that violations are likely to occur within a class of businesses because the workforce contains significant numbers of workers who are vulnerable to violations of this Chapter 14.26 or the workforce is unlikely to volunteer information regarding such violations.

F. An employer that fails to comply with the terms of any subpoena issued under subsection 14.26.150.E in an investigation by the Agency under this Chapter 14.26 prior to the issuance of a Director's Order issued pursuant to subsection 14.26.160.C may not use such records in any appeal to challenge the correctness of any determination by the Agency of liability, damages owed, or penalties assessed.

G. In addition to other remedies, the Director may refer any subpoena issued under subsection 14.26.150.E to the City Attorney to seek a court order to enforce any subpoena.

H. Where the Director has reason to believe that a violation has occurred, the Director may order any appropriate temporary or interim relief to mitigate the violation or maintain the status quo pending completion of a full investigation or hearing, including but not limited to a deposit of funds or bond sufficient to satisfy a good faith estimate of compensation, interest, damages, and penalties due. A respondent may appeal any such order in accordance with Section 14.26.180.

14.26.160 Findings of fact and determination

A. Except when there is an agreed upon settlement, the Director shall issue a written determination with findings of fact resulting from the investigation and statement of whether a violation of this Chapter 14.26 has or has not occurred based on a preponderance of the evidence before the Director.

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shall issue a "Determination of No Violation" with notice of an employee or other person's right to appeal the decision, subject to the rules of the Director. C. If the Director determines that a violation of this Chapter 14.26 has occurred, the

B. If the Director determines that there is no violation of this Chapter 14.26, the Director

Director shall issue a "Director's Order" that shall include a notice of violation identifying the violation or violations.

- 1. The Director's Order shall state with specificity the amounts due under this Chapter 14.26 for each violation, including payment of civil penalties, fines, and penalties payable to the aggrieved party pursuant to subsection 14.26.170.B and 14.26.170.D; and unpaid compensation, liquidated damages, civil penalties, penalties payable to aggrieved parties, fines, and interest pursuant to subsection 14.26.170.C for retaliation.
- 2. The Director's Order may specify that civil penalties due to the Agency can be mitigated for respondent's timely payment of remedy due to an aggrieved party under subsection 14.26.170.A.4.
- 3. The Director's Order may specify that civil penalties and fines are due to the aggrieved party rather than due to the Agency.
- 4. The Director's Order may direct the respondent to take such corrective action as is necessary to comply with the requirements of this Chapter 14.26, including, but not limited to, monitored compliance for a reasonable time period.
- 5. The Director's Order shall include notice of the respondent's right to appeal the decision, pursuant to Section 14.26.180.

14.26.170 Remedies

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A. The payment of unpaid compensation, liquidated damages, civil penalties, penalties payable to aggrieved parties, fines, and interest provided under this Chapter 14.26 are cumulative and are not intended to be exclusive of any other available remedies, penalties, fines, and procedures. Pursuant to subsection 14.26.160.C.3, the Director may specify that all-civil penalties and fines are due to the aggrieved party rather than due to the Agency.

- 1. The amounts of all civil penalties, penalties payable to aggrieved parties, and fines contained in this Section 14.26.170 shall be increased annually to reflect the rate of inflation and calculated to the nearest cent on January 1 of each year. The Agency shall determine the amounts and file a schedule of such amounts with the City Clerk.
- 2. If a violation is ongoing when the Agency receives a complaint or opens an investigation, the Director may order payment of unpaid compensation plus interest that accrues after receipt of the complaint or after the investigation opens and before the date of the Director's Order.
- 3. Interest shall accrue from the date the unpaid compensation was first due at 12 percent annum, or the maximum rate permitted under RCW 19.52.020.
- 4. If there is a remedy due to an aggrieved party, the Director may waive part or all of the amount of civil penalties due to the Agency based on timely payment of the full remedy due to the aggrieved party.
- a. The Director may waive the total amount of civil penalties due to the Agency if the Director determines that the respondent paid the full remedy due to the aggrieved party within ten days of service of the Director's Order.

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- B. A respondent found to be in violation of this Chapter 14.26 shall be liable for full payment of unpaid compensation plus interest in favor of the aggrieved party under the terms of this Chapter 14.26, and other equitable relief.
- 1. For a first violation of this Chapter 14.26, the Director may assess liquidated damages in an additional amount of up to twice the unpaid compensation.
- 2. For subsequent violations of this Chapter 14.26, the Director shall assess an amount of liquidated damages in an additional amount of twice the unpaid compensation.
- 3. For purposes of establishing a first and subsequent violation for this Section 14.26.170, the violation must have occurred within ten years of the settlement agreement or Director's Order.
- C. A respondent found to be in violation of this Chapter 14.26 for retaliation under Section 14.26.120 shall be subject to any appropriate relief at law or equity including, but not limited to, reinstatement of the aggrieved party, front pay in lieu of reinstatement with full payment of unpaid compensation plus interest in favor of the aggrieved party under the terms of this Chapter 14.26, and liquidated damages in an additional amount of up to twice the unpaid compensation. The Director also shall order the imposition of a penalty payable to the aggrieved party of up to \$10,000.
- D. A respondent found to be in violation of this Chapter 14.26 shall be subject to civil penalties. Pursuant to subsection 14.26.26.160.C.3, the Director may specify that civil penalties are due to the aggrieved party rather than due to the Agency.
- 1. For a first violation of this Chapter 14.26, the Director may assess a civil penalty of up to \$1,000 per aggrieved party.

2. For a second violation of this Chapter 14.26, the Director shall assess a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per aggrieved party, or an amount equal to ten percent of the total amount of unpaid compensation, whichever is greater.

3. For a third or any subsequent violation of this Chapter 14.26, the Director shall assess a civil penalty of up to \$10,000_per aggrieved party, or an amount equal to ten percent of the total amount of unpaid compensation, whichever is greater. The maximum civil penalty for a violation of this Chapter 14.26 shall be \$40,000_per aggrieved party, or an amount equal to ten percent of the total amount of unpaid compensation, whichever is greater.

4. For purposes of this Section 14.26.170, a violation is a second, third, or subsequent violation if the respondent has been a party to one, two, or more than two settlement agreements, respectively, stipulating that a violation has occurred; and/or one, two, or more than two Director's Orders, respectively, have issued against the respondent in the ten years preceding the date of the violation; otherwise, it is a first violation.

E. For the following violations, the Director may assess a fine up to the amounts set forth below:

Violation	Fine
Failure to provide a panic button under Section 14.26.050	\$1,000_per aggrieved party
Failure to comply with each of the requirements to prevent violent or harassing conduct by a guest under Section 14.26.070.A and B	\$1,000 per aggrieved party per instance of non-compliance with each requirement
Failure to comply with each of the requirements to protect an employee following a report of violent or harassing conduct by a guest under Section 14.26.090.A	\$1,000 per aggrieved party per instance of non-compliance

Failure to display the poster with written notice of rights under Section	\$\$1,000
14.26.100.B	
Failure to maintain records for five years under Section 14.26.110	\$1,000 per missing
	record
Failure to comply with prohibitions against retaliation for exercising	\$5,000 per
rights protected under Section 14.26.120	aggrieved party
Failure to provide notice of investigation to employees under subsection	\$1,000
14.26.150.B.2	
Failure to provide notice of failure to comply with final order to the	\$1,000
public under subsection 14.26.210.A.1	

The fine amounts shall be increased cumulatively by 50 percent of the fine for each preceding violation for each subsequent violation of the same provision by the same employer or person within a ten year period. The maximum amount that may be imposed in fines in any one year period for each type of violation listed above is \$10,000 unless a fine for retaliation is issued, in which case the maximum amount is \$40,000.

F. A respondent who willfully hinders, prevents, impedes, or interferes with the Director or Hearing Examiner in the performance of their duties under this Chapter 14.26 shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$10,000.

G. In addition to the unpaid compensation, penalties, fines, liquidated damages, and interest, the Agency may assess against the respondent in favor of the City reasonable costs incurred in enforcing this Chapter 14.26, including but not limited to reasonable attorney's fees.

H. An employer that is the subject of a settlement agreement stipulating that a violation shall count for debarment, or final order for which all appeal rights have been exhausted, shall not be permitted to bid, or have a bid considered, on any City contract until such amounts due under the final order have been paid in full to the Director. If the employer is the subject of a final order two times or more within a five-year period, the employer shall not be allowed to bid on any City contract for two years. This subsection 14.26.170.H shall be construed to provide

grounds for debarment separate from, and in addition to, those contained in Chapter 20.70 and shall not be governed by that chapter, provided that nothing in this subsection 14.26.170.H shall be construed to limit the application of Chapter 20.70. The Director shall notify the Director of Finance and Administrative Services of all employers subject to debarment under this subsection 14.26.170.H.

14.26.180 Appeal period and failure to respond

A. An employee or other person who claims an injury as a result of an alleged violation of this Chapter 14.26 may appeal the Determination of No Violation Shown, pursuant to the rules of the Director.

B. A respondent may appeal the Director's Order, including all remedies issued pursuant to Section 14.26.170, by requesting a contested hearing before the Hearing Examiner in writing within 15 days of service of the Director's Order. If a respondent fails to appeal the Director's Order within 15 days of service, the Director's Order shall be final. If the last day of the appeal period so computed is a Saturday, Sunday, or federal or City holiday, the appeal period shall run until 5 p.m. on the next business day.

14.26.190 Appeal procedure and failure to appear

A. Contested hearings shall be conducted pursuant to the procedures for hearing contested cases contained in Section 3.02.090 and the rules adopted by the Hearing Examiner for hearing contested cases. The review shall be conducted de novo and the Director shall have the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence before the Hearing Examiner. Upon establishing such proof, the remedies and penalties imposed by the Director shall be upheld unless it is shown that the Director abused discretion. Failure to appear for a contested hearing will result in an order being entered finding that the employer committed the violation stated in

the Director's Order. For good cause shown and upon terms the Hearing Examiner deems just, the Hearing Examiner may set aside an order entered upon a failure to appear.

B. In all contested cases, the Hearing Examiner shall enter an order affirming, modifying, or reversing the Director's Order.

14.26.200 Appeal from Hearing Examiner order

A. The respondent may obtain judicial review of the decision of the Hearing Examiner by applying for a Writ of Review in the King County Superior Court within 30 days from the date of the decision in accordance with the procedure set forth in chapter 7.16 RCW, other applicable law, and court rules.

B. The decision of the Hearing Examiner shall be final and conclusive unless review is sought in compliance with this Section 14.26.200.

14.26.210 Failure to comply with final order

A. If a respondent fails to comply within 30 days of service of any settlement agreement with the Agency, or with any final order issued by the Director or the Hearing Examiner for which all appeal rights have been exhausted, the Agency may pursue, but is not limited to, the following measures to secure compliance:

- 1. The Director may require the respondent to post public notice of the respondent's failure to comply in a form and manner determined by the Agency.
- 2. The Director may refer the matter to a collection agency. The cost to the City for the collection services will be assessed as costs, at the rate agreed to between the City and the collection agency, and added to the amounts due.
- 3. The Director may refer the matter to the City Attorney for the filing of a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction to enforce such order or to collect amounts due. In

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- the alternative, the Director may seek to enforce a settlement agreement, a Director's Order, or a final order of the Hearing Examiner under Section 14.26.220.
- 4. The Director may request that the City's Department of Finance and Administrative Services deny, suspend, refuse to renew, or revoke any business license held or requested by the employer or person until such time as the employer complies with the remedy as defined in the settlement agreement or final order. The City's Department of Finance and Administrative Services shall have the authority to deny, refuse to renew, or revoke any business license in accordance with this subsection 14.26.210.A.4.
- B. No respondent that is the subject of a settlement agreement or final order issued under this Chapter 14.26 shall quit business, sell out, exchange, convey, or otherwise dispose of the respondent's business or stock of goods without first notifying the Agency and without first notifying the respondent's successor of the amounts owed under the settlement agreement or final order at least three business days prior to such transaction. At the time the respondent quits business, or sells out, exchanges, or otherwise disposes of the respondent's business or stock of goods, the full amount of the remedy, as defined in the settlement agreement or the final order issued by the Director or the Hearing Examiner, shall become immediately due and payable. If the amount due under the settlement agreement or final order is not paid by respondent within ten days from the date of such sale, exchange, conveyance, or disposal, the successor shall become liable for the payment of the amount due, provided that the successor has actual knowledge of the order and the amounts due or has prompt, reasonable, and effective means of accessing and verifying the fact and amount of the order and the amounts due. The successor shall withhold from the purchase price a sum sufficient to pay the amount of the full remedy. When the successor makes such payment, that payment shall be deemed a payment upon the

purchase price in the amount paid, and if such payment is greater in amount than the purchase price the amount of the difference shall become a debt due such successor from the employer.

14.26.220 Debt owed The City of Seattle

A. All monetary amounts due under the settlement agreement or Director's Order shall be a debt owed to the City and may be collected in the same manner as any other debt in like amount, which remedy shall be in addition to all other existing remedies, provided that amounts collected by the City for unpaid compensation, liquidated damages, penalties payable to aggrieved parties, or front pay shall be held in trust by the City for the aggrieved party and, once collected by the City, shall be paid by the City to the aggrieved party.

B. If a respondent fails to appeal a Director's Order to the Hearing Examiner within the time period set forth in subsection 14.26.180.B the Director's Order shall be final, and the Director may petition the Seattle Municipal Court to enforce the Director's Order by entering judgment in favor of the City finding that the respondent has failed to exhaust its administrative remedies and that all amounts and relief contained in the order are due. The Director's Order shall constitute prima facie evidence that a violation occurred and shall be admissible without further evidentiary foundation. Any certifications or declarations authorized under RCW 9A.72.085 containing evidence that the respondent has failed to comply with the order or any parts thereof, and is therefore in default, or that the respondent has failed to appeal the Director's Order to the Hearing Examiner within the time period set forth in subsection 14.26.180.B and therefore has failed to exhaust the respondent's administrative remedies, shall also be admissible without further evidentiary foundation.

C. If a respondent fails to obtain judicial review of an order of the Hearing Examiner within the time period set forth in subsection 14.26.200.A, the order of the Hearing Examiner

shall be final, and the Director may petition the Seattle Municipal Court to enforce the Director's Order by entering judgment in favor of the City for all amounts and relief due under the order of the Hearing Examiner. The order of the Hearing Examiner shall constitute conclusive evidence that the violations contained therein occurred and shall be admissible without further evidentiary foundation. Any certifications or declarations authorized under RCW 9A.72.085 containing evidence that the respondent has failed to comply with the order or any parts thereof, and is therefore in default, or that the respondent has failed to avail itself of judicial review in accordance with subsection 14.26.200.A, shall also be admissible without further evidentiary foundation.

D. In considering matters brought under subsections 14.26.220.B and 14.26.220.C, the Municipal Court may include within its judgment all terms, conditions, and remedies contained in the Director's Order or the order of the Hearing Examiner, whichever is applicable, that are consistent with the provisions of this Chapter 14.26.

14.26.230 Private right of action

A. Any person or class of persons that suffers injury as a result of a violation of this Chapter 14.26 or is the subject of prohibited retaliation under Section 14.26.120 may bring an action in a court of competent jurisdiction against the employer or other person violating this Chapter 14.26 and, upon prevailing, may be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and costs and such legal or equitable relief as may be appropriate to remedy the violation including, without limitation, the payment of any unpaid compensation plus interest due to the person and liquidated damages in an amount up to twice the unpaid compensation; a penalty payable to any aggrieved party of no less than \$100 and not more than \$1000 for each day the employer was in

Nor shall this Chapter 14.26 be construed to preclude any person aggrieved from seeking judicial 1 2 review of any final administrative decision or order made under this Chapter 14.26 affecting 3 such person. 4 **14.26.250** Severability 5 The provisions of this Chapter 14.26 are declared to be separate and severable. If any clause, 6 sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, subsection, or portion of this Chapter 14.26, or the 7 application thereof to any employer, employee, or circumstance, is held to be invalid, it shall not 8 affect the validity of the remainder of this Chapter 14.26 or the validity of its application to other 9 persons or circumstances. 10 14.26.260 Effective date 11 **TA.** For ancillary hotel businesses with between 504 and 250 employees that contract, 12 lease, or sublease with a hotel as of the date of passage of this Chapter 14.26, the provisions of 13 this Chapter 14.267 shall take effect on July 1, 2025. 14 For all other covered employers, the provisions of this Chapter 14.26 shall take 15 effect on January July 1, 2020. 16 Section 2. Section 3.15.000 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 17 125684, is amended as follows: 18 3.15.000 Office of Labor Standards created – Functions 19 There is created within the Executive Department an Office of Labor Standards, under the 20 direction of the Mayor. The mission of the Office of Labor Standards is to advance labor 21 standards through thoughtful community and business engagement, strategic enforcement and 22 innovative policy development, with a commitment to race and social justice. The Office of 23 Labor Standards seeks to promote greater economic opportunity and further the health, safety,

and welfare of employees; support employers in their implementation of labor standards

refusal to renew the license and on what grounds such a decision was based. The Director may

- deny, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under this Chapter 6.208 on one or more of the following grounds:
 - 1. The license was procured by fraud or false representation of fact.
 - 2. The licensee has failed to comply with any provisions of this Chapter 6.208.
- 3. The licensee has failed to comply with any provisions of Chapters 5.32, 5.35, 5.40, 5.45, 5.46, 5.48, 5.50, or 5.52.
 - 4. The licensee is in default in any payment of any license fee or tax under Title 5 or Title 6.
 - 5. The property at which the business is located has been determined by a court to be a chronic nuisance property as provided in Chapter 10.09.
 - 6. The applicant or licensee has been convicted of theft under subsection 12A.08.060.A.4 within the last ten years.
 - 7. The applicant or licensee is a person subject within the last ten years to a court order entering final judgment for violations of chapters 49.46, 49.48, or 49.52 RCW, or 29 U.S.C. 206 or 29 U.S.C. 207, and the judgment was not satisfied within 30 days of the later of either:
 - a. The expiration of the time for filing an appeal from the final judgment order under the court rules in effect at the time of the final judgment order; or
 - b. If a timely appeal is made, the date of the final resolution of that appeal and any subsequent appeals resulting in final judicial affirmation of the findings of violations of chapters 49.46, 49.48, or 49.52 RCW, or 29 U.S.C. 206 or 29 U.S.C. 207.
 - 8. The applicant or licensee is a person subject within the last ten years to a final and binding citation and notice of assessment from the Washington Department of Labor and

Industries for violations of chapters 49.46, 49.48, or 49.52 RCW, and the citation amount and penalties assessed therewith were not satisfied within 30 days of the date the citation became final and binding.

9. Pursuant to subsections 14.16.100.A.4, 14.17.075.A, 14.19.100.A.4, 14.20.080.A.4, 14.22.115.A.4, 14.26.210.A.4 and 14.30.180.A.4, the applicant or licensee has failed to comply, within 30 days of service of any settlement agreement, with any final order issued by the Director of the Office of Labor Standards, or any final order issued by the Hearing Examiner under Chapters 14.16, 14.17, 14.19, 14.20, 14.22, 14.26, and 14.30, for which all appeal rights have been exhausted, and the Director of the Office of Labor Standards has requested that the Director deny, refuse to renew, or revoke any business license held or requested by the applicant or licensee. The denial, refusal to renew, or revocation shall remain in effect until such time as the violation(s) under Chapters 14.16, 14.17, 14.19, 14.20, 14.22, 14.26, and 14.30 are remedied.

- 10. The business is one that requires an additional license under this Title 6 and the business does not hold that license.
- 11. The business has been determined under a separate enforcement process to be operating in violation of law.

* * *

Section 4. If any section or subsection of the Seattle Municipal Code affected by this ordinance is amended by ordinance without reference to amendments made by this ordinance, each ordinance shall be given effect to the extent that the amendments do not conflict in purpose, and the code reviser may publish the section or subsection in the official code with all amendments incorporated therein.