

VICTORY! WAGE THEFT ORDINANCE PASSES IN SAN FRANCISCO!

Workers' Stories Play Pivotal Role in Gaining Labor Protections

By Anne Ryan | Communications Associate



Do you enjoy bathroom breaks and sick time at work? Does your paycheck arrive on time?

While these standard practices are recognized in many workplaces, there are employers who regularly, unapologetically refuse to recognize the law. As a result, hundreds of workers endure abusive conditions each year in the City of San Francisco alone.

In your support of DataCenter, you had a hand in elevating the voices of workers so they can demand a chance at justice. On August 2, 2011, San Francisco enacted the Wage Theft Prevention Ordinance, strengthening the city's ability to enforce labor laws, investigate wage theft, and increase fines for violations. Led by the Progressive Worker Alliance, the campaign was fortified by the 2010

Chinese Progressive Association Report, *Check, Please!* DataCenter helped write this report, which exposed the sweatshop conditions of Chinatown restaurant workers.

Campaign organizer Shaw-san Liu of Chinese Progressive Alliance said, "The Campaign to End Wage Theft has been going really well. Our [*Check, Please!*] report on

"Being a dog would be better than being a worker in the United States."

Chinatown health and working conditions has been a key part of laying the groundwork [and is] huge to our organizing work today!"

As one San Francisco wage theft victim said in the *Check, Please!* study, "Being a dog would be better than being a worker in the United States."

The testimonies of low-wage workers, in the *Check, Please!* report and at city council hearings were a powerful force in creating positive social change for workers.

Workers' organizing, using their knowledge as evidence, and enacting a law that rights a grievous wrong... now that's what we call Research Justice!

Other contributors to the Check Please! Report: San Francisco Department of Public Health; University of California San Francisco Medical School; University of California Berkeley School of Public Health; and the University of California, Berkeley Labor Occupational Health Program.

Find the *Check, Please!* report at www.datacenter.org!

DataCenter unlocks the power of knowledge for social change.

We support grassroots organizing for justice and sustainability through strategic research, training and collaborations.

We use research to help move the knowledge and solutions of communities of color and the poor from the margins to the center of decision-making.

 **DataCenter**
RESEARCH FOR JUSTICE

1904 Franklin Street, Suite 900
Oakland, CA 94612 USA
Tel: +1 (510) 835-4692
www.datacenter.org