



New York City Comptroller
John C. Liu

STATEMENT

PR13-01-005
Contact: Mike Loughran (212) 669-3564

January 9, 2013
Page(s): 2

**LIU APPLAUDS GOVERNOR CUOMO’S MINIMUM
WAGE PROPOSAL**

NEW YORK, N.Y. – City Comptroller John C. Liu today issued the following statement on Governor Cuomo’s call for a minimum wage increase to \$8.75 during his State of the State speech:

“Governor Cuomo’s call for an increase in the minimum wage is necessary to rebuild the middle class and help the working poor climb out of poverty. In order to combat our City’s growing wealth gap, we are calling on the State Legislature to embrace the Governor’s plan, while at the same time raising the minimum wage in New York City to \$11.50 an hour, to be phased in over five years. While we wholeheartedly support the Governor’s statewide proposal, the fact remains that a dollar goes much further in Buffalo than Brooklyn.”

BACKGROUND:

During his December State of the City address, Comptroller Liu called for a New York City minimum wage of \$11.50 an hour, to be phased in over five years and then pegged to the Consumer Price Index. Due to New York City’s high cost of living, the current effective minimum wage is less than \$5, the lowest in the country. The below table analyzes the impact of the Governor’s \$8.75 minimum wage proposal on different areas throughout New York State.

NYS Analysis of \$8.75 Minimum Wage		
Area	Cost of Living Index	Effective Wage
Manhattan	235.5	\$3.72
Brooklyn	183.4	\$4.77
Queens	151.4	\$5.78
Nassau-Suffolk	132.3	\$6.61
Albany	110.9	\$7.89
Ithaca	103.9	\$8.42
Rochester	103.3	\$8.47
Utica-Rome	101.3	\$8.64
Buffalo	99	\$8.84

Source: 2012 Quarter 2 ACCRA Cost of Living Index

Comptroller Liu's Minimum Wage Proposal at his State of the City – December 20, 2012
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QfcNYMsEyM&feature=youtu.be>

Comptroller Liu's Income Inequality in NYC Report – May 21, 2012
http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov/bureaus/opm/reports/2012/NYC_IncomeInequality_v17.pdf

###