

My name is Eric Biberman, director of events at 49 Grove and I would like to voice my opinion against the food and bar service workers hourly wage increase.

I have graduated with bachelors in business management few years back and have been employed by 49 Grove for two years now. My job consists of marketing to future clients during networking events, attending fundraisers and countless hours in the office handling client inquiries. I generally work 40 hours a week in the office and put in more hours after work and weekend for networking events.

A while back I was talking to one of the bartenders at my venue and over heard how much they have made in tips during one of the nights. After hearing that, I was completely disappointed of how many hours and energy I have to put in for the bartenders to have a busy night and them making nearly half of my salary from one night than me making in one week. With this economy a lot of people are taking time off with out pay not personal reason but are forced by their job to cut costs.

I am one of the few lucky people that have a job in this economy. But during this recession I have seen our staff decrease in size by half. The major reason for this is, patrons are very conscious on their spending and had cut our revenue generated by half since last year. In result, many of the staff had their shifts cut or even let go.

As a business person I believe that it is very irresponsible for us to take a route of increasing minimum wage for tipped food/liquor service. By going this route we will not only drive venues out of business but also helping out the ongoing jobless claims reach higher percentages.

Best,
Eric Biberman

Eric Biberman
Director of Events, 49 Grove LLC
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