

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWC Recovers \$9.9 Million in Wages for Texas Workers

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) recovered \$9.9 million in unpaid wages for Texas workers in Calendar Years 2006 and 2007.

“Texans who have not been paid for work have a true resource in the Texas Workforce Commission,” said TWC Executive Director Larry Temple. “Services from our Labor Law Section are at no-cost to the worker, and we work aggressively to collect unpaid wages once we determine wages are due.”

TWC administers the Texas Payday Law, which requires private employers to provide workers with earned compensation in a complete and timely manner. TWC Labor Law investigators annually conduct more than 15,000 wage claim investigations statewide.

Educational outreach is a strong component of the Labor Law Section. The staff makes presentations to employer organizations, educational service centers, workforce boards and more, to educate the general public about the Texas Payday Law, the Texas Child Labor Law and the Texas Minimum Wage Act.

Workers who feel their rights under the Texas Payday Law have been violated should fill out a wage claim form and submit it to TWC’s Labor Law Section or their nearest workforce center. The employer also is notified when a wage claim is filed and a response to that claim is requested. Based on an investigation, TWC will issue a Preliminary Wage Determination Order (PWDO). Both the claimant and the employer will have appeal rights to the PWDO.

Any monies that are determined due to a wage claimant must first be collected from the employer before they are paid out. Employers who do not respond to wage claims are subject to bank freezes, liens and other means to collect the unpaid wages on behalf of workers. Amounts awarded in wage claim cases are not drawn from state funds. Wage claim forms are available on TWC’s Web site at www.twc.state.tx.us/ui/lablaw/lablaw.html.

Employers seeking required workplace signs may also access this Web site. Both employers and the general public may call 1-800-832-9243 with any questions from within Texas. Outside Texas, call (512) 475-2670.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.