



For Immediate Release

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BOLI will investigate Si Casa Flores wage claims from unpaid workers

“Our agency can help workers make ends meet when a business closes its doors,” says Avakian

PORTLAND, OR— The Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) will investigate wage claims totaling more than \$21,000 from 28 employees of the now-shuttered Si Casa Flores restaurant, the agency announced today.

Despite the restaurant chain’s closure last month, BOLI may direct up to \$4,000 per worker through the state’s Wage Security Fund for wages earned 60 days before a closure. Wage compliance specialists determine and verify how much, if any, is owed each worker. The fund covers only wages.

“Workers who never receive a final paycheck when a business shuts its doors still have expenses and bills to pay,” said Labor Commissioner Avakian. “Our Wage Security Fund can help employees make ends meet, even if the business has closed and has no ability to meet its payroll obligations. We can investigate and pay employees the wages they are owed once we’ve independently verified wages are due.”

BOLI encouraged employees who’ve yet to be paid to contact the agency’s [Wage and Hour Division](#). Workers can file wage claims with BOLI by contacting the agency at (971) 673-0844 or emailing whdscreener@boli.state.or.us.

Oregon finances the fund through a diversion of three cents per \$100 of the state’s employment tax paid by employers for one quarter (three months) every odd-numbered year. After BOLI distributes payments from the Wage Security Fund, the agency seeks to recover the wages owed from the business or its successor, if any.

Oregon is one of only two states in the country to have a Wage Security Fund.

Prior to closure of its three Jackson County locations, Si Casa Flores employed as many as 100 workers, according to media reports.

For more information about BOLI’s efforts to protect workplaces and support Oregon employers, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/BOLI>.

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