

MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

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March 31, 2020

Alderman Khalif Rainey, Chairman
Committee on Community and Economic Development
City of Milwaukee Common Council

sent electronically

Dear Alderman Rainey,

I am writing on behalf of the stakeholders of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council which counts among its membership many members of the skilled trades. I am writing about the proposed legislation 191098 that is being scheduled for a hearing before Committee tomorrow.

It is very concerning the two members of the committee are forwarding a proposal to staff construction projects with workers who are unskilled. Would you want a child care worker who doesn't know infant CPR? Would you advertise for someone to come and fix a toilet or a leaking roof in your own home saying " I don't mind if you have *insufficient skills* for this job, come on in and take my money!" I don't think so. The building trades are firmly invested in training people through skills curriculum for each specific trade that also includes at a minimum OSHA 10 and more commonly OSHA 30. That is 30 hours of training in Occupational Safety and Health skills. There is no need in a pandemic to change what has been working. As you know, I am a member of Laborers Union Local 113. As it is still springtime and the season is not fully in swing, we have a large list of people who are on the Out of Work list at the hall. This list includes RPP participants who are waiting to go back to work in a new construction season, one that will certainly be less robust than anticipated due to the uncertainties caused by COVID-19. They are City of Milwaukee residents who worked construction last year, and they are hoping to this year as well. There is no emergency that calls for randomly putting people on construction projects where they might be a danger to themselves or others.

Periodically the CED committee hears this report: "*Communication from the Department of Public Works and Dept. of Administration - Office of Small Business relating to residents preference program goals and failure of contractors*"

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to meet these goals, analysis of the reasons these contractors are failing to meet these goals and actions the departments are taking to address these deficiencies in 2019."

And **each** time the presenters share data that indicates that the program that the trades, and MICAH, and President Hamilton championed and strengthened in 2009 has been a success. The most recent full year data shows that **55.88%** of work hours on projects were performed by RPP participants. It is a mystery to me why the file is named what it is. The most recent reports showed that the program has had its intended effect, when it was reported that contractors are utilizing RPP certified workers on other projects besides the ones with the requirements. What was put in place a decade ago by ALD. HAMILTON, ALD. WADE, ALD. KOVAC, ALD. COGGS, ALD. DAVIS, ALD. BAUMAN, ALD. ZIELINSKI, AND ALD. MURPHY with File 80218 is a growing and succeeding. This proposal is coming with NO foundation.

In terms of the proposal for digital monitoring, the answer is NO. No to Big Brother. No to using technology to interfere with peoples' privacy. You want to tell a new person coming into construction (a) you are unskilled and (b) we don't trust you and we are going to track you. The Labor Council is in firm opposition to this and I am planning to send this proposal to the ACLU for review.

I implore you to pull this file from the Committee agenda for Wednesday, April 1st.

Sincerely,



Pam Fendt, President

Milwaukee Area Labor Council

cc: Members of the Milwaukee Common Council

Mayor Tom Barrett