



MILWAUKEE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

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Community & Economic Development Committee
Milwaukee City Hall
200 East Wells Street, Room #205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Proposed Changes to Milwaukee's Residents Preference Program (RPP) Legislation

Dear President Hamilton and CED Committee,

I am writing to vehemently oppose the provisions in the proposed legislation 191098 that is currently being rushed to Committee tomorrow. These proposals should be held until input from Labor and Workforce Development can be obtained. This is a very reckless action that will do more harm than good to the City of Milwaukee while we are currently engaged in a global struggle against COVID-19. I respectfully request you hold this item from tomorrow's agenda and revisit this discussion at a more appropriate time when proper considerations from industry partners can be heard and considered.

Many of these proposals are in direct conflict with our robust industry standards for safety and training. For instance, once such proposal calls for requiring 40% of the workforce on a job site to be unskilled and untrained, which ultimately puts everyone's health, safety and well-being at risk. It is unconscionable to us that there are proposals currently under consideration that would deny workers an opportunity to acquire proper education and safety training from trainers and/or organizations who are certified to provide it. The Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council would never agree to any legislative efforts that serve to put our members and community in hazardous and potentially deadly situations.

Let's consider, for example, what it would look like if we applied that same logic to area hospitals while fighting the Covid-19/Coronavirus. Imagine if we insisted that 40% of Emergency Room nurses be granted access to patients with no education, training or skills. I'm sure we can all agree that safety standards should be strengthened not weakened during this time. Would the members of the Community & Economic Development Committee rush to push legislation designed to rescind hospital safety standards without speaking to the best and brightest minds in healthcare? Of course not! Construction industry leaders are simply asking for that same consideration. We are highly concerned about the

current proposal which would allow contractors to utilize large percentages of unskilled labor in addition to digitally tracking RPP participants. Proposals of this magnitude warrant discussion and input from community and industry leaders, especially at this time when concern for the equity, safety and vitality of Milwaukee residents should be in the forefront of our minds.

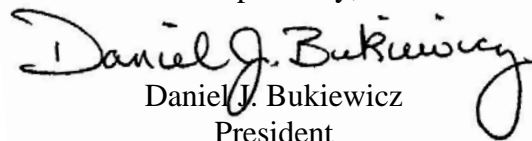
Analysis

This ordinance revises current code provisions governing the Residents Preference Program (RPP) by:

- Allowing a contractor to satisfy its residents preference program requirement by using workers who are employees of record of an entity engaged solely in training its employees for permanent employment, who are not employed or paid directly by the contractor and who, from time to time, are assigned to provide work at a contractor's jobsite as part of the employee's job training and career development.
- Requiring that at least 40% of workers participating in the program have either no skills, or insufficient skills, for the initial job assignment.
- Increasing the percentage of participants required to reside in high-poverty zip code areas from 25% to 35%. This requirement shall be reduced back to 25% if insufficient workers cannot be recruited through programs established by the city.
- Providing that a digital location tracking device indicating the whereabouts of a person throughout the day may, solely at the city's discretion, be deemed evidence of domiciliary intent when asserting residency.

The Milwaukee Building & Construction Council respectfully requests that the City of Milwaukee's Community & Economic Development Committee consider holding for discussion or eliminating these proposed changes to the Residents Preference Program (RPP) altogether. We consider them to be unnecessary, inherently dangerous and incredibly detrimental to what we are trying to achieve as an industry. Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter further.

Respectfully,



Daniel J. Bukiewicz
President

Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council