



GREATER BOSTON LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

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Cambridge City Council Testimony April 13, 2015

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Good Evening Councilors. Thank you for welcoming us in your city council chambers this evening. My name is Darlene Lombos and I am the Vice President of the Greater Boston Labor Council. We represent 161 unions with 90,000 members in cities all over Greater Boston, including the City of Cambridge. Before getting started, I want to first thank Councilor Simmons on behalf of the Greater Boston Labor Council and on behalf of all working people for your leadership and commitment to always doing what is right and just, and for your commitment to the continued well-being of all Cambridge residents.

Three weeks ago, close to a hundred union and community members gathered in front of Alewife Station to speak out against the irresponsible business practices of Callahan, Inc. Callahan, Inc. is a developer who is notorious for contracting to bad employers that continually compromise the health and safety of their workers; who knowingly commit payroll fraud, the common practice of misclassifying workers as independent contractors as a way to avoid paying proper state and local taxes; and who repeatedly refuse to work with community leaders to hire local residents to work on their job sites. All of this in the name of cutting costs and making bigger profits. This is unacceptable to our union sisters and brothers struggling to find work. This is unacceptable to our community leaders struggling to make ends meet. And we know this is unacceptable to the Cambridge City Council struggling to ensure a strong, local and sustainable economy for all your residents.

The City of Cambridge has long been a champion for workers' rights and ensuring businesses operating within your city borders hire local residents, provide safe working conditions and pay their employees an honest day's pay for an honest day's work. This is what strengthens our economy and our neighborhoods--when companies like Callahan, Inc. are reminded that it is a privilege, not a right, to do business in our great cities. And it is important for this reminder to be sent loud and clear to all businesses that unions and community leaders and our elected officials, stand together for all working people and their families.

The Greater Boston Labor Council urges all the city councilors this evening to pass this resolution and ensure employers are held to the high standards that the City of Cambridge and her residents deserve.

There are a few others that will testify in favor of the resolution introduced by Council Simmons this evening. I would just like to take a minute to ask those who are here also here in support of Councilor Simmons resolution to please stand and be recognized.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak this evening. And thank you again to Councilor Simmons and to Neal Alpert in your office for all your support.