

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS LYDIA EDWARDS AND KIM JANEY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

WHEREAS, In 1983, Mayor White and the Boston City Council unanimously passed the Boston Residents Job Ordinance requiring that on any city financed construction project, a minimum of 50% of the work hours trade by trade, be performed by Boston Residents, 25% by people of color, and 10% by women; and,

WHEREAS, In 1986, Mayor Flynn and the Boston City Council passed an ordinance establishing the Boston Employment Commission to enforce the policy and broadened the scope of the ordinance to cover private projects of 100,000 square feet; and,

WHEREAS, Despite the establishment of ordinances in the 1983 and 1986 establishing standards for the hours of work performed by Boston residents, people of color, and women, thirty years later compliance is significantly below standards in the vast majority of the trade areas for Boston workers and women; and,

WHEREAS, In 2017, Mayor Walsh and the Boston City Council approved a revised Boston Residents Job Policy Ordinance raising the standards for minimum hours worked by Boston workers to fifty one percent; raising the minimum hours worked by workers of color to forty percent; and raising the minimum number of hours worked by women to twelve percent; and,

WHEREAS, Compliance with the standards established by ordinance will play a significant role in reducing the income inequality among Boston residents and increasing economic justice in Boston's construction industry; and,

WHEREAS, In order for there to be compliance with the standards, it is essential that the unions and nonunion companies continually work to increase the number of Boston residents, workers of color, and women entering the union and nonunion apprenticeship programs; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED, That the City of Boston Code be updated by adding the following new section, 8-13 to establish a Commission for Economic Justice in Boston's Construction Industry

Chapter 8-13: Establishing the Commission for Economic Justice in Boston's Construction Industry

SECTION 1. The Commission for Economic Justice in Boston's Construction Industry shall hold public hearings at least twice a year with representatives of each of the trade unions covering Boston:

- a) First, to assess the performance of each of the trade unions in meeting the standards;
- b) Second, to assess each trade union's plan to increase the number of Boston residents, workers of color, and women entering the union apprenticeship program the following year.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall hold public hearings twice a year with representatives of open shop trade association which represent non-union contractors:

- a) First to assess the performance of non-union workers on a trade by trade basis in meeting the standards;
- b) Second, to assess the non-union sector plans to increase the number of Boston residents, workers of color, and women entering the general contractor as well as subcontractor apprenticeship programs.

SECTION 3. The Mayor shall appoint a representative from each of the nine city council districts from one or more nominees put forward by each of the nine district Councilors. The district representatives will serve on the Commission for a term concurrent with the two year elective term of each Councilor.

SECTION 4. The Mayor shall appoint four representatives to serve on the Commission for a term concurrent with his or her four year term.

SECTION 5. One of the representatives appointed by the Mayor shall have a history of advocating for the rights of Boston workers and involvement with education, preferably in the construction field; the second of the representatives appointed by the Mayor shall have a history of advocacy for workers of color, preferably in the construction field; and that the third Mayoral representative shall have a history of advocacy for women in the construction field.

SECTION 6. The Boston worker advocate, the worker of color advocate, and the advocate for women in the construction field on the Commission shall be selected by Mayor from nominations sent in by community organizations and individuals.

SECTION 7. The chair of the Commission shall be appointed by the Mayor for a term concurrent with his or her four year term.

SECTION 8. The Commission will make two reports a year to the City Council through public hearings, with one of the hearings focused on its work with the unions and the other focused its work with nonunion contractors.

SECTION 9. The Commission will be assisted by staff provided through City of Boston funds.

SECTION 10. This ordinance shall take effect six months after passage.

SECTION 11. If any provision of this section is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision shall be considered separately and apart from the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Filed in City Council: September 19, 2018