



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

WAGE THEFT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Notes

September 26 - 6:00PM-7:30PM

Attendees: Brenda Medrano, Juan Williams, Bill Dovhan, Colleen Fitzpatrick,
Guests: Marcy Goldstein-Gelb - MassCosh

1. Introduction- Juan Williams new director Welcome Project - Workers Center
 - Worked at ROCCA
 - Worked at SCC in Advocacy
 - Will work on Training and Advocacy.
 - Introductions of Committee Members, Bill Dovhan, Colleen,
 - New Member Mayra Molina, MassCOSH - . Councilor Gomez Mouakad to follow-up with the City Clerk.
2. Update on Request for a Program Manager for Prevailing Wage, Living Wage, and Wage Theft Ordinance Oversight under a Workforce Development Department/Division. - Resolution.
 - Update from City.
3. Update on Sound Bites:
 - **Recap** - Sound Bites popular cafe in Ball Square. Few years ago one worker learned that he was underpaid and he took action. Owner of Sound Bites threatened his family. The Department of Labor learned about this and started to investigate. Owner then threatened other workers asking them not to cooperate with the Department of Labor. Owner of Sound Bites was found guilty and a ruling was put forward. Court found workers are owed \$300,000. About 25 workers were impacted and the owner cannot threaten workers. New protections to help workers get documented. Workers' conditions are not as bad. Things still are problems like not getting vacation time. In discussion with the Department of Labor, I would like to have two spaces for workers to come to see money they are entitled to. Also come to see demands. It is a way to have workers get involved.
 - Colleen Fitzpatrick sent a message to Sound Bites about Wage Theft

Somerville City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Ordinance? Committee agrees the letter should go out. We will discuss further at the next meeting.

4. Continue further discussion on Letter to be sent to all ongoing projects greater than \$10,000,000 or 75 Units creating an awareness of the Wage Theft Ordinance.
 - Councilor Gomez-Mouakad to draft a letter to send awareness with Wage Theft Ordinance.
 - Marcy Goldstein-Gelb - to reach out about Rose Bud and note if there are any Wage Theft Issues.
 - Start Suggestion - Invite Rand Wilson on how we can start working together.

Next Meeting - October 24th - 6PM.