

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 2008-08**  
**IN THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN: June 12, 2008**

Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen, in session assembled, that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Somerville, is hereby amended by adding a new Section 2-355 as follows:

**Sec. 2-355. Responsible Employer Ordinance.**

(a) The Board of Aldermen hereby finds and determines that the failure of certain construction firms awarded contracts funded by the City to include and enforce provisions requiring compliance with state laws governing the payment of prevailing wages, the provision of workers compensation coverage, and the proper classification of individuals as employees and not as independent contractors, as well as provisions concerning health insurance coverage and state-certified apprenticeship programs, is injurious to the life, health and happiness of individuals employed by such firms and is deleterious to the quality of life in the City where most of such individuals reside.

(b) Every contract awarded by the City under G. L. c. 149, § 44A (2) where the amount of the contract is more than one-hundred thousand dollars, and any subcontract awarded in connection with any such general contract where the amount of such subcontract is more than twenty-five thousand dollars, shall be deemed to incorporate by reference the provisions of sub-parts (1) through (5) of this subsection together with the provisions of subsections (c), (d) and (e) of this section.

1. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder shall comply with the requirements of G. L. c. 149 concerning the payment of prevailing wage rates to their employees;
2. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder must maintain and participate in a bona fide apprentice training program as defined by G. L. c. 23, §§ 11H & 11I for each apprenticeable trade or occupation represented in its workforce that is approved by the division of apprentice training of the department of labor and workforce development of the Commonwealth and must abide by the apprentice to journeymen ratio for each trade prescribed therein in the performance of the contract;
3. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder must offer, at its expense, hospitalization and medical benefits for all individuals employed on the project or coverage which is comparable to the hospitalization and medical benefits provided by the health and welfare plans in the applicable craft recognized by G. L. c. 149, § 26, in establishing minimum wage rates. All such plans shall meet or exceed state requirements for such plans.
4. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder must maintain appropriate industrial accident insurance coverage in accordance with G. L. c. 152 for all individuals employed on the project;
5. The bidder and all subcontractors under the bidder must properly classify individuals employed on the project as employees rather than independent contractors and comply with all laws concerning workers' compensation insurance coverage, unemployment taxes, social security taxes and income taxes as respects all such employees.

(c) All bidders and all subcontractors under such bidders who are awarded, or otherwise obtain, contracts from the city on projects governed by G. L. c. 149, § 44A (2), shall comply with the obligations described in sub-parts (1) through (5) of subsection (b) of this section for the entire duration of their work on the project, and an officer of each such bidder or subcontractor under the

bidder shall certify under oath and in writing on a weekly basis that they are in compliance with these obligations.

(d) Any bidder or subcontractor under the bidder who fails to comply with any of the obligations described in sub-parts (1) through (5) of subsection (b) of this section for any period of time, or fails to comply with the weekly certification obligations described in subsection (c) of this subsection shall be subject to any or all of the following sanctions:

1. temporary suspension of work on the project until compliance is obtained; or,
2. withholding by the City of payment due under the contract until compliance is obtained; or,
3. permanent removal from any further work on the project; or,
4. recovery by the city from the general contractor of 1/10 of 1% of the general contract or \$ 1,000.00, whichever sum is greater, in the nature of liquidated damages assessed for each week that the general contractor is in non-compliance or, if a subcontractor is in non-compliance, the recovery by the city from the general contractor as a back charge against the subcontractor of 1/10 of 1% of the subcontract price, or \$ 400.00, whichever sum is greater, in the nature of liquidated damages assessed for each week that the subcontractor is in non-compliance.

(e) In addition to these sanctions a general bidder or contractor shall be equally liable for any violation of the obligations described in sub-parts (1) through (5) of subsection (b) of this section committed by any of its subcontractors or sub bidders, excepting only those violations which arise from work performed by subcontractors with subcontracts governed by G. L. c. 149, § 44F. Any contractor or subcontractor who has been determined to have violated any of the provisions of subsections (b) or (c) of this section shall be barred from performing any work on any future contracts awarded by the City for six months for the first violation, three years for the second violation, and permanently for a third violation.

(f) The provisions of this section shall not apply to construction projects for which the low general bid was less than one-hundred thousand dollars, or to work performed pursuant to subcontracts governed by G. L. 149, § 44F where the bid for such subcontract was less than twenty-five thousand dollars.

Receipt Acknowledged \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Vendor

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Its: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE**  
**Responsible Employer Ordinance**

**WEEKLY COMPLIANCE FORM**

In accordance with the Code of Ordinances of the City of Somerville, Section 2-355, all general contractors and all subcontractors under such general contractors who are awarded, or otherwise obtain, contracts from the city on projects governed by G. L. c. 149, § 44A (2), shall comply with the obligations described in sub-parts (1) through (5) of subsection (b) of this section for the entire duration of their work on the project, and an officer of each such general contractor or subcontractor under the general contractor where the amount of such subcontract is more than \$25,000.00, shall certify under oath and in writing on a weekly basis that they are in compliance with these obligations.

**STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name) (Title)

Do hereby state that \_\_\_\_\_ is in compliance with all  
(Contractor or Subcontractor)

requirements of the City of Somerville's Responsible Employer Ordinance, City Ordinance Section 2-355, for the duration of all work performed on the

\_\_\_\_\_ by this general contractor or  
(Building or Project)

subcontractor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)  
Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury