




RWDSU: STRONG VALUES, STRONG COMMUNITIES

The Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, RWDSU, represents approximately 40,000 workers in the NYC region and around 100,000 nationwide. In NYC, our members work in apparel retail and grocery stores, pharmacies, food service, food processing, car washes, nursing homes, airline concessions, non-profit social service organizations and more. For 80 years, the RWDSU has fought for the rights of working people. The roots of the RWDSU were laid down in the 1930s when a group of local unions including retail clerks and warehouse workers in New York City banded together to form the RWDSU.


CREATE GOOD, UNION JOBS WHEN THE CITY SPENDS PUBLIC MONEY

THE PROBLEM




-  Some city contractors and publicly subsidized developers are actively undermining worker-led efforts to improve working conditions in their facilities. Housing Works is a prime example of this. This labor strife can disrupt the City's investments in these projects.

THE SOLUTION

Require labor harmony for contractors and subsidized projects where the City has a "proprietary interest."

-  Executive Order 19 requires labor peace for certain subsidized retail projects. This EO should be expanded and codified into legislation.

Expand labor peace in several important ways:

-  City funded developments: Expand industries from retail and food service to include distribution centers and similar e-commerce logistics providers.
-  City Contractors: All city contractors should be required to agree to be neutral towards worker organizing.
-  Remove all arbitrary thresholds in the law and simply determine whether or not a project is covered based on whether the city has a "proprietary interest" in the project.

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN NYC'S PROCUREMENT PROCESS

THE PROBLEM

- ✗ The supply chain for NYC procurement is opaque. This means that it's often impossible to determine who is supplying what to the city.
- ✗ There have been several high profile COVID-19 outbreaks at poultry processing facilities across the country, and in several of these cases the owners failed to provide adequate PPE or social distancing to their workforce.
- ✗ NYC has many large contracts for poultry, but most contracts are with distributors, not suppliers, and the detailed supplier information is not available. Thus, it is impossible to determine if these individual low-road facilities actually supply chicken to NYC's institutions.
- ✗ Without transparency, there can be no accountability.

THE SOLUTION

- ✓ Require that NYC vendors provide all relevant supply chain information, updated quarterly.
 - ✓ Ensure vendors comply with a code of conduct that places worker health and safety front and center.
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REFORM LAND USE LAW TO ENSURE COMMUNITY INPUT ON E-COMMERCE DISTRIBUTION CENTER EXPANSION

THE PROBLEM

- ✗ Nearly all new e-commerce distribution centers in NYC are considered "warehouses" for zoning purposes, and accordingly are built as-of-right throughout the city.
- ✗ E-Commerce distribution centers are nothing like traditional warehouses. Distribution centers are constantly moving goods in and out of the building and eventually to a customer's door. There can be thousands of truck trips each day to these facilities, causing untold amounts of traffic, pollution and other negative community impacts.
- ✗ In an as-of-right facility, these community impacts are never assessed.

THE SOLUTION

- ✓ Change land use law to ensure there is impact analysis and public input into e-commerce distribution center expansion.