



UFCW Local 23 and Working Families in Pittsburgh Win Major Victory with Passage of Prevailing Wage Bill

The Pittsburgh City Council voted unanimously to enact a prevailing-wage law for service and retail jobs in publicly subsidized development.

“This is a major victory for working families in Pittsburgh,” said Tony Helfer, President of UFCW Local 23. “It means developers who take our money must promise to maintain the standard wages—and that’s good for everyone: workers, business, and our community. Service and retail industry jobs like these are the jobs of the future, and now the City Council voted to make sure those jobs will pay enough to raise a family and benefit our community.”

The passage of this legislation was due to a strong coalition of faith, environmental, community and labor organizations, including UFCW Local 23. Workers in building and food service, grocery store and hotel industries will benefit from this bill, including thousands of UFCW members working in those industries.

The Pittsburgh Prevailing Wage bill will make sure that collectively bargained wage and benefit standards for workers in those industries are maintained in publicly subsidized development. Wage standards assure pay of between \$10 and \$14/hr plus health insurance and other benefits to all jobs created by subsidies of over \$100,000 in projects of over 25,000 square feet.

“If my tax money is going to be used to build a grocery store,” said Marc Mancini, a UFCW Local 23 member and local grocery worker who worked to get the law passed, “I don’t want it used to create minimum-wage jobs that would undercut what I make and create competition that could hurt my employer while not actually helping any Pittsburghers earn a good living.” **OP**

Big Box Retailers must bring
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Quality jobs that allow workers to earn a living wage with affordable health care are the only way to improve the economy and successfully combat the recession.

Good Jobs Chicago Coalition, a strong and diverse city-wide coalition of residents, religious and community activists, and Local 881 are demanding that Walmart and other retailers be held to a higher standard of corporate-community partnership. These standards ensure a reciprocal relationship wherein business can flourish, and communities are sustained.

Throughout December, the coalition canvassed Chicago’s Ninth Ward and disseminated information and door hangers about the need for big box retailers like Walmart to commit to good jobs for residents of the Ninth Ward.

UFCW Local 881 President and International Vice President, Ron Powell, wrote an op-ed last week in the *Chicago Tribune* about the need for accountability of retailers like Walmart as they plan to aggressively expand in Chicago. “Chicago residents deserve comprehensive standards, which will protect them on the job, beyond the ceremonial ribbon cutting and grand-opening activities,” Powell wrote. “People want jobs, but they want jobs that will lift people up, not perpetuate a downward spiral and erosion of current standards.”

To read the full op-ed, visit <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/chi-1230vpletersbriefs4dec30,0,2818408.story>. **OP**

Take a Stand to Make Health Care Reform a Reality this Year

Now that the House of Representatives and the Senate have each passed a health care bill, it is crucial that we step up our efforts to ensure that when the House and the Senate agree on a single bill, our members of Congress stick by the House bill.

Below are some talking points on the difference between the Senate and House bills, and why the House bill is the best model in terms of affordability and for holding employers responsible for their share of health care costs.

- The House bill lowers premiums for the middle class and provides quality, affordable health insurance to every American.
- The House bill increases enrollment in private employer-provided coverage by 6 million Americans whereas the Senate bill reduces private employer-sponsored coverage by 4 million Americans.
- Unlike the House bill, the Senate bill excludes part-time workers. That approach would have a negative effect on workers and cost the federal government more in subsidies.
- With the Senate bill, large employers can also avoid a penalty by offering workers coverage, including very high-deductible plans with limited benefits.

Call your representative today and ask them to read the UFCW report at fixthebill.org and work to strengthen the employer responsibility provisions when the bill goes to conference.

You can also send a letter to the editor to your local paper asking your representative to stick by the House bill. A sample letter to the editor is available for you to use or edit at http://www.ufcwaction.org/site/LteUser?lte_id=1. **OP**

UFCW International Launches New Legal Web site

The International has created a Web site with two legal databases: an extensive collection of UFCW arbitration awards and all UFCW Attorneys Conference papers going back to the mid-1980s. All UFCW local union staff may access the Web site.

To get access and a password, staff can visit www.ufcwlegal.org and click on the "New User Registration" link. To register, local union staff and local union counsel must provide basic information, pick a username, and password. After registering, the Web site will send an email to confirm access and restate the username and password. All technical questions about registering should be directed to Microsearch, which maintains the Web site. Call Susan Kelly at (781) 231-9991 ext.15.

To make sure that the arbitration database remains updated and complete, local unions should e-mail or mail all arbitration awards – both favorable and unfavorable – to the Legal Department, attention George Wiszynski. E-mailed awards are preferred.

All suggestions for other legal tools the International can establish to help local unions or their attorneys should be forwarded to the International General Counsel Ed Wendel. **OP**

UFCW Mourns Passing of Local 1529 Vice President Mary Guerra



Mary Guerra, Vice President of UFCW Local 1529, known as a staunch supporter of workers and the "Buy American" campaign, died Saturday. She was 64. Guerra was also president of the Shoals Democratic Club and Shoals Chapter of the American Foundation of Democratic Women, Treasurer of the State Foundation of Democratic Women and

Secretary-Treasurer of the Shoals Labor Council. **OP**