



Greater Boston Labor Council

United unions for stronger communities. AFL-CIO

6 Beacon St., Suite 910 • Boston, MA 02108 • Tel: (617) 723-2370 • Fax: (617) 723-2480 • www.gbclc.com



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April 11, 2018

Dear Alderman,

It has come to our attention that a Home Rule Petition regarding the Clarendon Hill project is being sought, and we at the Greater Boston Labor Council are deeply concerned.

M.G.L. c. 149 sections 26 to 27F make clear that construction, reconstruction, installation, demolition, maintenance and repair on publicly funded projects shall be subject to the prevailing wage law. This law has been critical to building and maintaining a vibrant middle class in our state and nation for decades. It simply prevents competition from artificially depressing local labor standards. Studies show that subverting prevailing wage laws often leads to shoddy construction and substantial cost overruns. Such a race to the bottom does not cut public construction costs; instead, worker skills, safety and productivity drop dramatically, shortcutting the long-term prosperity of our community for the short term gain of a select few.

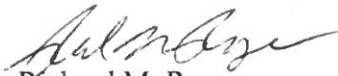
We agree that the residents of Clarendon Hill should reside in the best housing possible, and that high quality affordable housing in Somerville should be accessible to all. However, we are opposed to the notion of betraying one important mission for another, especially when a private interest stands to make tens of millions of dollars off this public-private "partnership."

One of the reasons our region faces such a deep affordable housing crisis is because of wage stagnation and race to the bottom workforce practices of too many unscrupulous employers. Giving developers the green light to pay workers less will only create more families in need of affordable housing.

On behalf of the Greater Boston Labor Council, and our affiliated members of construction unions who live in Somerville, we ask you to please reject this Home Rule Petition.

Thank you for your public service and your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Richard M. Rogers

Executive Secretary-Treasurer