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Plymouth Rock Studio signs union pact

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By Kathryn Koch
GateHouse News Service
Posted Mar 13, 2009 @ 03:09 PM
Last update Mar 13, 2009 @ 03:12 PM

PLYMOUTH — Keeping a promise made to union leaders, Plymouth Rock Studios co-founder David Kirkpatrick has signed a formal agreement with the Massachusetts Building Trades Council to hire only union workers for the construction of their movie and entertainment production studio.

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Kirkpatrick, accompanied by Plymouth Rock Studios CEO Earl Lestz, signed a memorandum of understanding committing the studio to be union-built. The event took place Wednesday during the Massachusetts Building Trades Council's annual convention at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor.

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Lestz said he worked with trade unions for many years while at Paramount Studios in California and looks forward to continuing that relationship in Plymouth. He dismissed the notion that hiring union members would add 20 percent to the studio's budget. He said using skilled employees pays because of the quality of the work.


Wicked Local photo/Kathryn Koch
Plymouth Rock Studios co-founder David Kirkpatrick signs a memorandum of understanding with the Massachusetts Building Trades Council in support of hiring only union employees for studio construction with, from left, Massachusetts Building Trades Council President Frank Callahan, Brockton Building Trades Council President William Demello and Plymouth Rock Studios CEO Earl Lestz.

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"Every job, I think, is performed with the utmost care," he said.

Trades Council President Frank Callahan said he has heard it before that developers will have 100 percent union jobs using the best tradesmen from union apprentice programs, but Plymouth Rock Studios is actually committed to fulfill that promise of a union-made, union-run studio.

"As you all know, too often those are just promises," he said. "I can happily report to you, and many of you who have been involved in those conversations know, that it's not just a promise with our friends at Plymouth Rock Studios."

Mulligan said the studio's commitment to building a green, or environmentally friendly, studio also fits in with the council's efforts to step up its green job apprenticeship to train for the jobs of the future.

Callahan thanked Kirkpatrick and Lestz for their commitment to hiring union members, with the signing of the memorandum of understanding making it official. Kirkpatrick returned the thanks with a video salute to the trades.


Kirkpatrick said the decision to go all-union fits with the studio's commitment to the middle class.

"From the beginning people asked 'Why union?' and our position has always been that we're here to support the middle class," he said.

The studio project is expected to employ up to 1,500 construction workers at its peak and up to 2,000 employees during full operation. The permitting process for the \$500 million movie and entertainment production studio complex is underway. Studio officials hope to open in 2010.

In his commitment letter to Brockton Building Trades Council President William Demello, representing the state council locally, Kirkpatrick details the studio's employment policy for "socially responsible" union contractors. The signing of the memorandum of understanding was followed by a standing ovation.

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garyooo 8 months ago  Report Abuse


So I guess we can't outsource the construction to companies in canada, like with Cherry Hill II???

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Massachusetts Building and Construction Trades News Genzyme Battle Builds Unions Call On Gov To Yank CEO From Advisory Board - Boston Herald

04/09/2009 - 2:01pm



Local labor unions are taking on a captain of the local biotechnology industry. Yesterday at a State House demonstration, they called on Gov. Deval Patrick to remove Genzyme CEO Henri Termeer from the governor's economic advisory council.

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Mass. Weighs Labor Agreements On Stimulus Projects

04/05/2009 - 9:26pm

Massachusetts is weighing whether to require contractors bidding on certain federally funded stimulus projects to enter into deals with local unions.

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Taking The Team Approach - UA Journal, March 2009

03/25/2009 - 10:42pm

Teamwork, cooperation, coordination, and flexibility are all qualities that the United Association aspires to for its journeymen and apprentices. **Click above** to read how union members are constructing the Bristol-Myers Squibb plant—at record speed. The end result will be up-and-running facilities manufacturing the products that they were designed to create.

[Read more...](#)

The Pros And Cons Of Project Labor Agreements - @ Odds - Boston Globe

03/22/2009 - 12:41pm

"For years, PLAs have been used to ensure the delivery of large construction projects on schedule based on a supply of skilled union labor. ... Unions play a stabilizing role in the industry and continue to serve as a pathway for blue-collar workers into the middle class."

[Read more...](#)

Updated Media Release - Six Hundred Union Members Demonstrate At Medical Office Building In Danvers

03/19/2009 - 9:17am

Six hundred union members gathered early this morning at the site of a Medical Office Building under construction on Endcott Street in Danvers to protest against the use of contractors that do not conform to community standards. **Click Heading For Complete Media Release And Related News Coverage.**

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Construction Jobs In Mass. At 10-Year Low - Boston Globe

03/16/2009 - 3:28pm

Job losses are accelerating in every corner of the construction industry in Massachusetts, leaving thousands of people in a race to find work as the sharp economic downturn halts work on new homes, office towers, and retail stores.

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PLA Order Is Good For Workers And Taxpayers - Worcester Business Journal

03/16/2009 - 3:03pm

PLAs are clearly beneficial to all involved: workers are properly trained and earn respectable wages and benefits; employers have immediate access to the skilled workforce it demands; and owners can take comfort in knowing that their projects will be completed on time and on budget saving taxpayers money.

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Plymouth Rock Studios To Hire Union Workers By Agreement

03/13/2009 - 6:28am



David Kirkpatrick of Plymouth Rock Studios, signed a memorandum of understanding committing the studio to be union-built Wednesday morning during the Massachusetts Trades Council Annual Convention. CEO Earl Lestz dismissed the notion that hiring union members would add 20 percent to the studio's budget. He said using skilled employees pays because of the quality of the work.

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Plymouth Rock Studios Signs Union Commitment

03/12/2009 - 9:48pm

Principles of Plymouth Rock Studios joined local labor leaders in signing a Memorandum of Understanding related to construction of the project. "I worked with the trade unions for many years during my twenty-one years at Paramount Studios in California and I look forward to continuing that relationship in Plymouth," said Earl Lestz, CEO of Plymouth Rock Studios.

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Town Seeks Wage-Law Exemption - Boston Globe

03/12/2009 - 6:34am

North Andover wants to be the first municipality in Massachusetts to be exempt from the state's prevailing-wage law. "In light of this economy, the last thing you want to do is cut people's paychecks," said Frank Callahan of the Massachusetts Building Trades.

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