



DC Jobs with Justice

Fighting for working people in the nation's capital

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAYOR SIGNS PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENT FOR NEW DC UNITED STADIUM

DC Community Supports Quality Construction Jobs for DC Residents

Washington, DC. September 10, 2013. Mayor Vincent Gray's decision to sign a Project Labor Agreement for the new home of the DC United soccer team at Buzzard Point will ensure good living wage jobs for DC residents. The Project Labor Agreement also places high priority on training, and specifically hiring a majority of District residents. The Project Labor Agreement also helps protect the safety and overall working conditions for construction workers on the project by having representation with their employer if needed. The DC Building Trades will be partnering which benefits the employee by giving them an outlet to fix any grievances before they become larger problems.

The local organizations of DC Jobs with Justice are in support of the Project Labor Agreement for the new soccer stadium at Buzzard Point. DC Jobs with Justice Executive Director, Nikki Lewis says, "DC residents need quality jobs with living wages. The Project Labor Agreement will ensure that our DC workers and residents are first priority for these coveted wages, benefits, and on-the-job protection."

DC Jobs with Justice is a dynamic coalition of community organizations, faith institutions, unions, and student advocacy groups working to protect and advance the right of DC workers and residents. For more information, visit www.dcjwj.org or contact us at info@dcjwj.org.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Construction Agreement for New DC United Soccer Stadium is a Win/Win for Team and City

WASHINGTON, DC -- The following statement was released today by Brent Booker, Secretary-Treasurer of North America's Building Trades Unions, upon the announcement by District of Columbia Mayor Vincent Gray and the DC United soccer team that they have chosen to utilize a project labor agreement (PLA) for the construction of a new soccer stadium in Washington, DC:

"Today's announcement illustrates the forward-looking vision by DC United that not only attends to the team's concerns about quality, on-time and on-budget construction results, but also projects a commitment to providing a respectable standard of living to DC construction workers and affording structured career training opportunities for other DC residents.

The agreement will provide opportunities for local, small and disadvantaged business enterprises; as well as providing significant skilled craft apprenticeship opportunities for DC residents. Our goal for this project is to ensure that at least 60% of all apprentice hours are performed by DC residents.

Further, the agreement contains a "Helmets to Hardhats" provision that will provide funding for a nationally recognized program that assists military veterans with jobs and training opportunities in the construction industry.

We are also committed to engaging in efforts in conjunction with DC-based community groups to recruit local residents into apprenticeship programs.

The agreement contains a "Summer Youth Program" that entails a 6 week learning experience for 15 DC residents between the ages of 16 and 18.

DC United's stadium joins a list of dozens of professional sports stadiums that have utilized PLAs for on-time, on-budget construction results. In addition to the construction of sports facilities, PLAs have been widely used in the private sector for such projects as Disney World, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, and all eight of Toyota's American manufacturing facilities, to name just a few.

PLAs are a win-win proposition. They were created as a market-based tool designed to ensure greater project efficiencies, while also providing support and protection for those values we hold dear. After all, when government, labor and private enterprise join together in partnership, we will inevitably build a stronger economy here in Washington, DC. Thankfully, DC United and the District of Columbia have chosen that path which will strengthen, rather than diminish, our moral fabric."

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North America's Building Trades Unions are an alliance of 13 national and international unions that collectively represent over 2 million skilled craft professionals in the United States and Canada

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Tuesday, September 10, 2013

Mayor Vincent C. Gray, DC United and National Unions Sign Project Labor Agreement for Soccer Stadium

Agreement guarantees opportunities for DC residents in stadium's construction

(Washington, DC) – Today, Mayor Vincent C. Gray, DC United officials and the affiliated national unions of the Washington DC Building & Construction Trades Council announced agreement on a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for construction of the new DC United Soccer Stadium. As part of the selection criteria for the stadium builder, DC United has agreed that they will obligate the selected contractor to honor the PLA.

The agreement ensures that the proposed project will keep its tight schedule through a no-strike provision and guarantees **first priority for District residents for employment and apprenticeship opportunities by waiving the union criteria of hiring by seniority.**

"Through this agreement, the District has secured the highest priority for bona fide District residents in employment, apprenticeship and training opportunities as well as the creation of contracting opportunities for local business," said Mayor Gray. "This agreement advances those goals and ensures that District residents in the construction trades have improved pathways to life-long careers with good wages."

The PLA is similar to the agreement used for construction of Nationals Park. City Administrator Allen Y. Lew led negotiations for the District for the current deal.

"We were able to build the Washington Nationals ballpark in 24 months due to the strong partnership with labor. The ballpark had to open in time for the start of the season and we got it done with **52-percent District-based certified business enterprises and 82-percent First Source participation,**" said Lew. "I'm confident we will have similar success on the soccer stadium."

The District's Department of Employment Services (DOES) oversees the First Source program, which mandates that at least 51 percent of all new hires on projects funded in whole or in part by the District government must be District residents. DOES also oversees apprenticeship training for the District and will monitor contractor compliance with both programs.

"We look forward to working with the city to build a new home for DC United. This Project Labor Agreement allows for small DC construction firms to take advantage of the union's training programs and assist them with getting qualified workers to complete this project," said Vance Ayres, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Washington DC Building & Construction Trades Council. "Most importantly this provides a needed pipeline to a career for District residents in the construction industry. The Project Labor Agreement also allows us to display our value to the city, owners, residents and construction firms by providing qualified workers, training and preventing many disputes that happen on construction projects."

The soccer stadium PLA ensures that the project will use union labor for subcontracts valued above \$6 million. Any trade packages below that threshold are automatically provided a waiver to the PLA, thereby allowing smaller, often non-union firms, to bid on and perform work. All non-union firms can bid on any phase of construction and are free to take advantage of union training programs.

"We are fully in support of this agreement," DC United Chief Operating Officer Michael Williamson said. "It provides employment opportunities for District residents and expands business opportunities for local, small and disadvantaged companies in the District."

In July, Mayor Gray and the ownership group of four-time Major League Soccer (MLS) champion DC United announced a public-private partnership to build a state-of-the-art, \$300 million, 20-25,000-seat soccer stadium in the Buzzard Point area of Southwest. The new stadium will be located adjacent to the Fort McNair Army base, bounded by Half Street and Second Street between R and S Streets SW. It is anticipated to be completed in time for the 2016 season.