

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2018 at 6:00 a public hearing was held in the Chambers of the Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders; and

WHEREAS, at that time representatives of organized labor and worker advocacy groups appeared and presented complaints regarding the treatment of workers in Hudson County who perform work on construction projects; and

WHEREAS, among the complaints of the speakers were allegations that there are developers and contractors of those developers in Hudson County who engage in fraudulent and illegal practices, including but not limited to compelling workers to remit back wages; perform work as independent contractor; creating fictitious employers and/or employees in order to avoid paying proper salaries and benefits; using illegal workers; and ignoring the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act as it applies to overtime wages; and

WHEREAS, the projects identified by the speakers where the inappropriate conduct is alleged to be occurring were in Jersey City and identified below:

235 Grand Street
189 Steuben Street
109 Hoboken Avenue
331 Warren Street
Holiday Inn Express
213 Van Vorst Street
333 Grand Street
460 Grand Street
81 Monitor Street
100 Monitor Street
380 Newark Avenue
469 Newark Avenue
134 Baldwin Avenue
100 Water Street; and

WHEREAS, the speakers also alleged there were some developers within Jersey City, who had received tax abatements from the City of Jersey City and who had entered into Project Employment and Contracting Agreement (“PECA”), as a condition of receiving a tax abatement, but who were in violation of the terms and conditions of the PECA entered into by them; and

WHEREAS, the speakers indicated that, notwithstanding the requirement contained with PECA signed by the developers to receive the tax abatements, the developers have failed to ensure that Jersey City residents and women and minority owned businesses were employed in performing work on the project that was the subject of the tax abatement and for which the PECA was negotiated; and

WHEREAS, the speakers stated that, despite registering their complaints with the appropriate government agencies and representatives, no action has been taken to address the abuses; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that it is necessary for those agencies and entities that have the power to redress the complaints made at the meeting of July 25, 2018 to immediately take steps to investigate and redress any violations or abuses which may be occurring.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board finds that the complaints presented at the public hearing of the Board on July 25, 2018 are not only unconscionable but illegal; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board urges the government entities charged with enforcing both the law and any PECA ensure that the violations and abuses alleged are remedied immediately; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Freeholder Clerk is to send a copy this Resolution and a transcript of the public hearing of July 25, 2018 to the individuals and agencies listed below:

1. United States Senator Robert Menendez
2. Unites States Senator Cory Booker
3. All members of the United States House of Representatives who are the Representatives for the residents of Hudson County.
4. The United States Department of Labor
5. The New Jersey Department of Labor
6. The Office of the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey
7. The Office of the New Jersey Attorney General
8. The Office of the Hudson County Prosecutor
9. The Office of the Mayor of the City of Jersey City