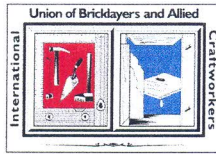


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**Richard E. Tolson**  
*Director*



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**Statement on Worker Abuse to Hudson County Freeholders from  
International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers  
Director Richard Tolson**

*Tolson testified at the Public Resources Committee Hearing, calling Hudson County  
'ground zero' for 'worker abuse, wage theft and corporate welfare'*

*At Least 14 Active Development Sites in Hudson County are Operating via an Illegal  
Business Model and Cheating Workers*

Thank you to Freeholder O'Dea and the members of the Public Resources Committee for taking the time to hear from some of the men and women who help move Hudson County forward. Members of our union are proud to be contributing to Hudson County's progress, and we are here today to talk about how we hope the workers who are very literally helping build a better Hudson County can be treated more fairly.

When I say "we," I mean all of us. I believe the injustices we are speaking about today have an effect on all residents who pay taxes and on the governments that represent them.

Throughout the entire state of New Jersey, wealthy developers have taken advantage of lax labor law enforcement and outdated regulations to increase profit margins by abusing workers, robbing workers and the state of revenue and creating an unequal business environment where illegality is the optimal business model.

These millionaire developers are utilizing construction contractors who break Federal and State laws by misclassifying full-time workers as part-time contractors, committing wage theft by violating overtime requirements, establishing illegal work weeks, paying cash and evading taxes – all with one goal: to increase profits. This widespread worker abuse is occurring while the developers are charging record rents, record warehouse prices and recording obscene profits, and often with the benefit of State or local sponsored tax breaks.

The fact that these illegal practices are allowed to continue in plain sight amounts to direct corporate welfare, with working men and women being abused and the taxpayers being cheated. And, frankly, Hudson County is literally ground zero for the issue.

