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Evidence of Worker Exploitation Stops Work at 110 Job Sites *NJDOL Releases County-by-County Data on 4th Anniversary of Expanded Powers to Issue Stop-Work Orders*

TRENTON – In the four years since Governor Murphy expanded the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development's (NJDOL) powers in 2019 to halt work on job sites when there is strong evidence of worker exploitation, over 110 stop-work orders have been issued and more than \$2.7 million in back wages owed to affected workers, liquidated damages, and penalties have been assessed.

In 2021, Governor Murphy further boosted these powers, permitting stop-work orders to be applied to all work sites of an employer found to be in violation of the law.

“Since the beginning of our Administration, we have been dedicated to respecting, defending, and upholding the rights of all New Jersey workers, who are the lifeblood of our economy,” said **Governor Murphy**. “These expanded powers have led to over a hundred stop-work orders in just the past few years, advancing our commitment to stronger and fairer worker protections.”

“Having the authority to shut down work as soon as wrongdoing is identified has exponentially strengthened the department’s effectiveness at enforcing our state’s wage and hour laws and protecting workers and law-abiding employers,” said **Labor Commissioner Robert Asaro-Angelo**. “We’ve made it clear: If we find you are cheating workers, we will halt your business operations, and in many cases, you will be told to leave the job by the general contractor or contracting authority.”

“A vast majority of New Jersey employers follow the law and do right by their workers, but NJDOL wants to ensure all businesses are following the law and treating workers fairly,” Asaro-Angelo added. “It’s not just about stopping the violations in progress. There is also an educational component to prevent these issues from happening in the first place.”

NJDOL’s Division of Wage and Hour and Contract Compliance has the authority to immediately halt work at any public or private worksite – both construction and non-construction – when an investigation finds evidence an employer has violated state wage, benefit or tax laws. Examples include: misclassifying employees as independent contractors; not having appropriate workers’ compensation insurance; failing to pay prevailing wage or overtime; or paying workers partially, late, or off the books.

“Our hat is off to the New Jersey Department of Labor for using the strongest weapon in its arsenal to crack down on bad actors who cheat the system in the construction industry,” said **Bill Mullen, president of the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council**. “Stop-work orders are a powerful tool needed to ensure that construction workers are protected from contractors who exploit them and cheat them out of wages and benefits they have legally earned. We want to see more leaders in Trenton taking firmer stances like this that the State of New Jersey will not tolerate abuses to workers or the law.”

“ACCNJ commends the New Jersey Department of Labor for continuing to level the playing field for New Jersey’s construction industry by enforcing wage and hour laws,” said **Jack Kocsis, CEO of the Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey**. “When employers exploit their workers the State loses millions in tax revenue, reputable contractors lose out on opportunities to bid, and the workers themselves are left without the protection of healthcare coverage, workers’ comp, retirement plans, and other important benefits,” Kocsis continued. “The structure in place ensures a level playing field by increasing enforcement, improving interagency communication, and educating employers and workers to stand against tactics that hurt workers and the citizens of New Jersey. We are always happy to work with our State’s leadership to continue to raise the standards of construction in New Jersey.”

Stop-work order investigations have resulted in the assessment of nearly \$3 million in administrative fees and penalties across all employers involved.

Of the 110 stop-work orders issued since 2019, 87 involved construction jobs, with 44 being public works projects. Stop-work order investigations have so far led to 11 contractors being debarred from engaging in future public works jobs.

In addition to responding to worker complaints, NJDOL last year added Strategic Enforcement to its toolbox, focusing on industries with a history of non-compliance and whose employees are less likely to file complaints. The department has increased outreach efforts to connect with workers and employers as part of its Strategic Enforcement initiatives. A recent Strategic Enforcement effort concentrating on the drywall industry resulted in the issuance of 10 stop-work orders at one Raritan construction site.

For an enhanced graphic of each employer issued a stop-work order, as well as the job site location where the order was issued, [click here](#).

Below is a list of the number of stop-work orders issued per county:

Number of Stop-Work Orders Per County* July 2019 – July 2023

*Counties not listed had no stop-work orders issued during this timeframe

County	# Stop-Work Orders	County	# Stop-Work Orders
Atlantic	1	Mercer	8
Bergen	7	Middlesex	10
Burlington	3	Monmouth	12
Camden	7	Morris	3
Cumberland	3	Ocean	9
Essex	9	Passaic	2
Gloucester	2	Salem	2
Hudson	12	Somerset	11
Hunterdon	3	Union	6
		TOTAL:	110

Below is a full list of Stop-Work Orders issued by NJDOL and the cities where the violation(s) took place:

ATLANTIC

Vegans Are Us, LLC: Atlantic City

BERGEN

Reliant IT: East Rutherford (2)

Zenith Construction: Mahwah

Gorilla Netting, LLC: Mahwah

Premier Building & Construction Management: Paramus
Little Pulse, LLC t/a Shumi Japanese Restaurant: Ridgewood
Urban City Creations, LLC: Ridgewood

BURLINGTON

Edgewood Company: Columbus, Edgewater Park, Pemberton (3)

CAMDEN

Mid Day Medical Associates, LLC: Blackwood
Low Bid, Inc: Cherry Hill
Premier Steel, Inc: Cherry Hill
AAJ Construction, Inc: Cherry Hill
Euro Construction: Cherry Hill
Landmark Hospitality Renovations, LLC: Cherry Hill AD Energy, LLC: West Berlin

CUMBERLAND

New Bridge Contracting, Inc: Millville
Alebriges: Vineland
GSM Planet, Inc: Vineland

ESSEX

HESP Solar: Belleville
Patriot Iron Works: Belleville
Jersey Pizza, Inc: East Orange
United Demo: Newark
Dimension Contractors, LLC: Newark
Townhouse Builders, Inc: Newark
Summit Assets: Newark
Bella Luce/GLO Group, LLC: Nutley
Practical, LLC: Nutley

GLOUCESTER

Malaga Diner: Malaga
G&Lg Erectors, Inc: Swedesboro

HUDSON

Three Sons Restoration, LLC: Bayonne
Physician Wellness Consultants, LLC: Bayonne Donald Drywall LLC: Harrison
REB Construction: Jersey City
Osorio J. Painting, LLC: Jersey City
Drywall Builders Corp: Jersey City
The Kadex Ceiling Team, Inc: Jersey City
Blue Star Drywall, Corp: Jersey City

Concrete Rising, LLC: Jersey City
Signatura Laboris, Inc: Jersey City
Bodytopia: West New York
Ostreicher Floor Covering: North Bergen

HUNTERDON

All Set Construction Corp: Annandale
Grade Construction: Annandale
Jahnke & Sons Construction, Inc: Annandale

MERCER

Latz Inc: Ewing
Westwood Construction of NJ, LLC: Ewing Benchmark Site Development, LLC: Ewing
D.S. Rodrigues Construction, LLC: Princeton Tricon Enterprises, Inc: Trenton
Saint Joseph Trim & Cabinet Co: Trenton
Three Sons Restoration, LLC: West Windsor Cunha's Construction Inc: Robbinsville;
All locations company-wide (1)

MIDDLESEX

Concrete Solutions NJ, LLC: Dunellen
Bismark Construction Corp: Dunellen
Modern Technology, Inc: Edison
The Kemmerer Group, Inc: Edison
Best Hernandez Construction, LLC: Monroe
Carol Concrete, LLC: Monroe
Elite Pro Rebar: Monroe
5 Star Reinforcement GA, LLC: Monroe
Kico Construction, LLC: Monroe
A&D Welding, Inc: Piscataway

MONMOUTH

Eagle Associates of Cazenovia LLC: Freehold
JH Williams Enterprises, Inc: Freehold
Maya's Concrete, LLC: Freehold
Galo: Keansburg
Taj Mahal: Manasquan
Quality Steel Erectors, Inc: Manasquan
Alliance 360 Group, Inc: Manasquan
H&S Construction & Mechanical, Inc: Manasquan Luigi's Pizza of Ocean, LLC: Ocean
(2)
Louies AM Kitchen, LLC: Spring Lake
D&J Towing and Recovery Inc: Wall Twp
Luigi's Famous Pizza/Rocco B Pizzeria LLC: Wanamassa

MORRIS

Public House Partners, LLC: Chester
Argo Fuel LLC: Rockaway
Ultimate Framing, LLC: Parsippany

OCEAN

Reliant IT: Lakewood (4)
Zafir Construction Corp: Toms River
Silva Brothers Construction Carpentry, Inc: Toms River
Connected General Construction, LLC: Toms River Luis RC Construction, LLC: Toms River
Bragton Construction, Inc: Waretown

PASSAIC

E&M Bindery, Inc: Clifton
M&M Construction Technology, Inc: Paterson

SALEM

Pennsville Restaurant Assn., LLC t/a Chobani's Restaurant: Pennsville (2)

SOMERSET

LV Drywall, Inc: Raritan
SamPaul Contracting, Inc: Raritan (2)
Blue Contractor Corp: Raritan
JMR Construction: Raritan
Ariel Drywall Corp: Raritan
Drywall Express, LLC: Raritan
Soft Contractor Corp: Raritan
Maximum Contractor Corp: Raritan
Green Master Contractor Corp: Raritan
ALM Drywall, Inc: Raritan

UNION

M&M Construction Technology, Inc: Elizabeth Marcal Construction: Rahway (2)
NJ Masonry & Concrete, LLC: Summit
ZJ's Enterprise Corp: Union
WPOP Internet Radio, LLC: Union

For more information on New Jersey's wage laws, visit myworkrights.nj.gov.