

# City of Boston In City Council

## Order

Regarding A Hearing on BRA Support for Boston Construction Workers

By  
Councillor Chuck Turner

*April 8, 2009*

- Whereas, the federal stimulus infrastructure projects represent a significant opportunity to strengthen the economic situation of Boston construction workers; and
- Whereas, experience has shown that aggressive monitoring of construction sights covered by the Boston Residency Job Program lead to higher compliance for Boston workers, workers of color, and women; and
- Whereas, the Boston City Council unanimously voted to ask the Construction Unit withing City of Boston's Small Local Business Enterprise Department and the Contract Compliance Unit within the Boston Redevelopment Authority to send bi weekly monitoring reports to the Council on every stimulus project covered by their offices; and
- Whereas, the Boston City Council has approved a hearing order to meet with the Compliance Office of the Boston Housing Authority regarding effective monitoring of the \$33 million stimulus construction dollars they will receive; and
- Whereas, the fact that the contract compliance offices for the City, the BRA, and the BHA, have relatively small staffs making it difficult for the compliance offices to meet the City Council's stimulus construction monitoring requests as well as maintain effective monitoring on other projects under their jurisdictions; and
- Whereas, the Boston Redevelopment Authority was established in the 1950s to stimulate economic development that would benefit the residents of the City of Boston; and
- Whereas, the Boston Redevelopment Authority has built its own revenue base by leasing land in downtown Boston purchased with federal urban renewal dollars in the 60s; and
- Whereas, a donation of monies by the BRA to the City and BHA necessary to hire two additional compliance staff workers each and an increase of the BRA compliance staff by two would enable those agencies to virtually assure higher compliance on stimulus projects.  
Therefore Be It
- Ordered, that the appropriate committee of the City Council hold a hearing and invite the BRA director to request that the BRA increase its compliance staff by two to monitor stimulus projects under its jurisdiction until they have been completed. And Be It Further
- Ordered, that the committee request that the BRA Director recommend to the BRA Board of Directors that the BRA donate monies to the City's and the BHA's contract compliance offices to hire two additional compliance staff each specifically to monitor the stimulus projects until completed.