

As the RCO relates to our ability to complete previously bid city projects. I would add that the excel document provided contains some projects which are below the \$100,000 threshold which means those projects would never have been impacted. Second of all, among the projects listed upon further consultation and discussion there are vendors who can meet the requirements of the RCO and would be able to effectively bid on these projects. The RCO will level the playing field and create the strongest possible standards which will change the composition of the bidding pool.

On the bridge repair project there are at least three possible bidders: Trumbull Clearwater Construction, Performance Construction.

On the curbing and sidewalk project, there are at least three possible bidders: Db utility contractors, Marino Corp, J&K Excavating.

On the pool demolition there at least four potential bidders: Empire, Db utility, Bean, Fr Beinke.

On the pedestrian ramp there are at least five potential bidders: Schultz, Db utility Performance Construction, J&K Excavating, Marino corp.

On the street improvements, there are at least five potential bidders: Db utility contractors Bean, Marino Corp, Hart Excavating, James D. Morrissey.

This is by no means an exhaustive or complete list, but meant to indicate to my colleagues that there is a well trained and prepared bidding pool ready to compete under the RCO language. There are likely many more who will come forward to provide us with cost-effective, timely and well-delivered projects. There has been significant misinformation about the ability of contractors to meet these standards and demands. We are raising the bar, not being exclusionary.

I believe this statement sufficiently answers the questions raised by my colleagues and opponents of the legislation. It addresses the demand and need for a skilled workforce, explains the importance of apprenticeships, demonstrates their ability to provide for skilled labor, a middle class living, gateway to financial stability for communities of color and benefits the employer as well. It provides further evidence of contractors that are prepared and ready to provide quality work to Allentown taxpayers and a gateway to the middle class for Allentown residents.

Testimony has shown that there are local minority owned firms that will also be able to compete and provide services under this legislation. However, it's not just about minority owned businesses, its about firms that treat their workers right and pay them well. RBO are associated with higher wages and safer work places. Women and people of color may not always own the firm, but they are employed by them. It's important we create a workplace culture that pays them good wages and provides strong benefits.

I continue to be a champion of this legislation because it is pro-worker, pro workforce and pro-taxpayer. It's not union vs. anti-union, it's not picking and choosing one firm over

another. It's about the city taking a stand in the name of a strong and competitive workforce, a middle-class way of life and the highest possible industry standards for safety and excellence.

The city should not be afraid to take this stance and we should be unanimous in our support.

For additional questions and answers please refer to the full policy document attached prepared by Gerry M. Waites, Esq which served as the basis for much of the research within in this statement.