

MASSACHUSETTS LABORERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL

of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO

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June 24, 2008

The Honorable Governor Deval Patrick
State House, Room 360
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

I write to you today about the importance of police details to the workers I represent. People have call police details unnecessary and offered flag personnel as replacements that could safely do that job. I know firsthand the reality is police details provide things that flag personnel cannot provide.

Police make worksites safer for workers. I have worked in the middle of dangerous traffic conditions, and I represent thousands of laborers who labor in dangerous situations to keep our bridges and highways operational. Speaking for these workers, we cannot imagine how much more dangerous worksites would be without police details. Many times, had it not been for police details lives would be forever changed or lost.

The authority that the police bring to a worksite is indispensable to workers' safety. Drivers observe and obey police details or they face consequences. Flagmen will not get that respect from the public.

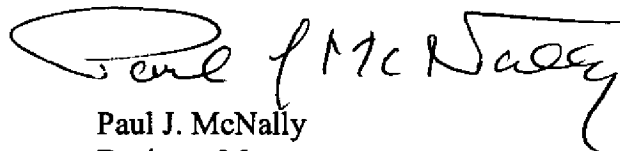
Anyone who has driven in Massachusetts knows some drivers take caution and some don't. Why would this state take that chance and put workers, drivers and pedestrians at risk?

Police details also make it easier for workers to do our job quickly and effectively. When our workers are in ditches or on highways they are vulnerable to both traffic concerns and crime. When we have police details there are no delays in production and we can focus on our job instead of our surroundings and possible risks beyond those that come with the work.

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I know laborers feel that having highly trained police officers by our side helps us do our job well and gets us home safely afterwards. I also know that we serve the public more efficiently as a result.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. McNally". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent loop at the beginning of the first name.

Paul J. McNally
Business Manager

PJM/jmc