

# The Keller Administration

## Labor Union Successes and Initiatives

### CREATION OF THE LABOR LIAISON POSITION

Labor Liaison position was created to help facilitate communication between Trade Unions and the Keller Administration. The Labor Liaison attends Local meetings, as well as NM-Federation of Labor meetings and Labor Council meetings. The Unions have a direct line to the Administration through the Liaison's office. Union concerns have been given a priority and the Labor Liaison has the ability to help resolve issues.

### COMMITMENT TO UTILIZE UNION LABOR

The Keller Administration believes that our community is strengthened when local trade union are employed by the City. We believe that a strong middle class is dependent on the strong wages and the benefits that only a Union is able to negotiate and provide. The Keller Administration has committed to using Union Labor whenever and wherever we are able to.

### PREVAILING WAGE

Every project that receives more than 6% but less than or equal to 15% of the total development cost in financial assistance from the City of Albuquerque, is subject to the New Mexico Subcontractors Fair Practice Act, the Public Works Apprentices and Training Act, and payment of prevailing wage rates in accordance with the New Mexico Public Works Minimum Wage Act, § 13-4-10 to 13-4-17, NMSA 1978, for the public infrastructure component of the project only, regardless of whether the redevelopment project is deemed a public or private construction project.



A project that receives greater than 15% of the total development cost in financial assistance from the City of Albuquerque, will be subject to the New Mexico Subcontractors Fair Practice Act, the Public Works Apprentices and Training Act, and payment of prevailing wage rates.

in accordance with the New Mexico Public Works Minimum Wage Act, § 13-4-10 to 13-4-17, NMSA 1978, on the entire development project regardless of whether the redevelopment project is deemed a public or private construction project.



### DEPARTMENTAL ASSISTANCE

The Keller Administration has provided access to Department Directors and their staff to help resolve issues of concern to the Union. For example, the Planning Department, with the assistance of the Plumbers and Pipefitters, was able to identify potential violations of apprenticeships in the construction industry. Contractors were educated about these violations by Planning without the Union having to be in direct conflict with them. The Administration sees this as an example of a win-win by requiring all contractors to follow City ordinances and expectations while helping to level the playing field for employers who do pay a prevailing wage.



“ UA Local 412 Plumbers and Pipefitters have helped New Mexicans stay in the middle class by providing a great wage from the first day of work. The Keller administration has had a great open door policy and always welcomes a conversation about workers’ rights and safety in Albuquerque.”

—Courtenay Eichenhorst,  
UA Local Union No. 412

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO BRING HIGH PAYING JOBS TO ALBUQUERQUE

The EDD is tasked with bringing strong employers to the City of Albuquerque, enhance job growth, and promoting business development and stability. The City has provided strong incentives to those industries that have a solid track record of strong Union jobs, such as the film industry.



## LOBBYING EFFORTS

The City of Albuquerque has consistently lobbied for the issues that strengthen our workforce. We strongly support a higher minimum wage and paid sick leave. The Keller Administration has led by example by granting City employees 12 weeks of paid parental leave.



## PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

The City needs major public works projects to meet the highest quality standards and strengthen workforce opportunities and training. The Keller Administration is working with the Building Trades and City Council to craft policies that encourage effective contracting practices and ensure that all workers are treated fairly. The City recognizes the benefit of partnering with the Building Trades to identify best practices for safe work conditions and training investments.

## MESSAGING

Through public and professional statements, the Keller Administration has communicated to both the public and employers throughout the City our beliefs in a strong middle class. We have provided a strong, consistent message about our commitment to Labor, our achievements, and our aspirational goals through the media.



“ For generations trade unions have been a key role in building America into what it is today. Unions protect the interests of the workforce by using collective bargaining agreements to negotiate better wages, hours and workplace safety conditions for all workers. Having people in public office who not only understand, but believe in the benefits unions bring to a community is important. And that is why the Carpenters Union have always stood by the Keller Administration.”



—Rosendo Najar,  
Lead Representative, *Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Local Union No. 1319*