



## **Labor Department Issues Stop Work Orders To Four Contractors at Bridgeport Construction Site**

WETHERSFIELD, March 1, 2019 – The Labor Department issued four Stop Work orders in Bridgeport after determining that contractors working at the Main Street Lofts construction site, 1188 Main Street, were in violation of state wage laws.

According to State Labor Commissioner Kurt Westby, federal OSHA requested assistance from the agency’s Wage and Workplace Standards Division unit after receiving calls regarding alleged safety and wage violations. Upon investigation, Labor Department staff determined that four companies were not in compliance, with violations including lack of worker’s compensation and the payment of employees in cash without maintaining required payroll records. The following companies were issued Stop Work Orders:

- Jorge Drywall, 239 Harral Ave., Bridgeport for misrepresenting employees as independent contractors, materially or understating payroll, and failure to obtain worker’s compensation coverage.
- KCT General Contractors, 91 McVeigh Ave, Staten Island, NY for having no Connecticut worker’s compensation and no Connecticut registration.
- RCN Home Improvement, 5 Woodside Ave., Danbury for misrepresenting employees as independent contractors, materially or understating payroll, and failure to obtain worker’s compensation.
- Wood Pro & Development, 40 Armeridge Drive, Bridgeport for misrepresenting employees as independent contractors, materially or understating payroll, and failure to obtain coverage that meets the requirements of State Statute 31-284.

“While we want to promote a strong economy and keep employers and their employees on the job, our first obligation is to ensure that workers have the proper protections should they get injured while on the job,” Westby noted. “Only by creating a level playing field can we ensure that those employers that are doing the right thing can remain competitive,” he added.

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“In addition to ensuring that workplace protections are in place for every working person, our job is to promote honesty and ensure employers are paying the proper taxes and providing unemployment insurance and worker’s compensation. Ultimately, state taxpayers are burdened with the cost of protecting these employees, which creates a financial loss for Connecticut’s residents and those employers that do play by the rules,” Westby added.

When a Stop Work order is issued the company cannot resume work until it provides proof that all deficiencies have been corrected. Under state law companies are fined for those days it has operated in violation. Under state statute, this is \$300 per worker per day of the violations.

In 2018, the agency 118 Stop Work orders to companies that lacked proper worker coverage, misclassified workers as independent contractors or failed to keep required payroll records.

Noting that a main objective of the agency is also to educate about workplace laws, Westby urged any company doing business in Connecticut to consult the agency website at [www.ct.gov/dol](http://www.ct.gov/dol) or contact wage staff at 860-263-6790.

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