

# Public Informational Meeting In Preparation For Upcoming Workforce Training

## An Akron Waterways Renewed Undertaking

### City of Akron Press Release

From the desk of stephanie york

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The largest construction project in the history of Akron will continue to provide more jobs for Akron residents as the City launches an informational meeting about additional training programs for residents who are unemployed or underemployed.

Next week, the City will sponsor a public meeting to provide information to residents regarding a new training program that will prepare them to do work on the federally-mandated sewer project. Local trade Unions will be on-hand at the meeting to provide information and answer questions about union apprenticeship programs and membership.

In conjunction with the Akron Urban League and Akron Summit Community Action, the Unions will provide information to residents regarding the skills needed to gain entry into the Unions' trades for construction laborers, operators, pipefitters, carpenters, electrical workers, and truck driving. The purpose of the meeting is to hand out applications, answer questions, and inform residents. The ultimate goal of the overall program is to identify, train, and prepare residents for opportunities within these sectors. The Local trade unions involved in the upcoming informational meeting include:

- Tri-County Building & Construction Trades Council
- Heat & Frost Insulators Local 84
- International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 7
- Laborers' International Union of North America Local 894
- United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America Local 285
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 306
- International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 45
- Glaziers Architectural Metal and Glass Workers Union Local 1162
- International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Local 841
- Operative Plasterers' and Cement Masons' International Association Local 109
- Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 219
- United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers Local 88
- Sheet Metal Workers' International Association Local 33
- International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 348
- Sprinkler Fitters Union Local 669
- International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron, Worker Local 17

Previously, the City provided free training to residents so that they could obtain their CDL licenses. The City then employed some of the newly trained and licensed drivers to operate trucks to haul materials out of the sewer construction sites.

“If there is a bright spot to this very expensive federally mandated project, “said Plusquellic, “it is that our residents are being trained and employed to do some of the work necessary. This training will give residents not only the ability to do these jobs, but also valuable lifelong skills that they can use beyond our sewer project. It is our hope that residents will take advantage of this training, and then obtain work on the sewer project, or in other public and private sector jobs. The goal is to get our residents working.”

**Applications for the classes will be available at the Construction Workforce Pre-apprentice Outreach Program being held at the Akron Urban League, Presidents’ Hall, 440 Vernon Odom Blvd., on Monday, November 24th, 2014, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.** Applications will be completed and collected onsite, and potential candidates must meet minimum requirements prior to training.

Mayor Plusquellic and local union officials have lauded the employment of Akron residents through the CSO program as an opportunity in the face of challenging circumstances. Some of the qualifying individuals selected to participate in the training classes may also be tapped to provide temporary/seasonal work related to the CSO projects.