



COMPTROLLER OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
1 CENTRE STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10007-2341  
(212) 669-3500

WILLIAM C. THOMPSON, JR.  
COMPTROLLER

Dear Community Leader:

My office enforces labor laws that support fair pay for work performed for the City of New York. In doing so, we have helped thousands of workers recover wages owed to them by government contractors who failed to comply with the law.

I am writing to invite you to join an "Immigrant Prevailing Wage & Living Wage Outreach Partnership" with my Bureau of Labor Law and the leaders of immigrant and worker advocacy groups. The goal of this effort is to ensure that immigrants and other workers are paid the wages and benefits that are required by law when employed on New York City government construction contracts, building service contracts and contracts to provide services such as security, home health care and day care.

Prevailing wage and living wage laws require that contractors and subcontractors doing work for a City agency must pay a market wage set by my office. In most cases, these companies must also provide health benefits to the workers they employ.

My office is charged with setting a legal wage rate for many different job classifications. We are also responsible for catching employers that don't comply with the law and winning back wages for workers that have been underpaid.

While most municipal contractors are responsible and law-abiding, too many unscrupulous contractors exploit hardworking New Yorkers by skirting prevailing and living wage laws.

Many cheated workers are newly arrived immigrants who encounter language barriers and may be too intimidated to step forward and file complaints against their employers. **We would like to partner with your organization to alert workers about their rights under the state's labor law and the city's administrative code.** My office has issued a new series of multi-lingual flyers to educate workers in a variety of fields, including carpenters, home attendants, laborers, and security guards. We also have speakers available to address your group. Please note that labor law complaints can be filed with our office anonymously regardless of immigration status.

Prevailing and living wage laws are about helping hard-working people and creating a better New York for all of us. I am proud to enforce them, and I am proud to help working New Yorkers get the wages they deserve. The success of this new Immigrant Prevailing Wage & Living Wage Outreach Partnership depends upon the active participation of community leaders like you.

Michelle Centeno of my staff will be calling you to discuss how we can work together on this initiative. You may also reach her at 212 669-8927, or by email at [mcenten@comptroller.nyc.gov](mailto:mcenten@comptroller.nyc.gov).

We welcome the opportunity to work with you and pursue new and creative ways to better protect working immigrants' rights.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William C. Thompson, Jr." in a cursive style.

William C. Thompson, Jr.