

Letters to Outlook

Carpenters Union needs to own up

The Albuquerque Journal, "Protest on Demand for \$10 an Hour," 4/11/09, highlights the Carpenters Union campaign of anonymous, unsubstantiated picketing of various public and private owners who are building in Albuquerque. This campaign of picketing and letter writing is a multi-year attempt to harm nonunion contractors and intimidate those owners who are using a group of drywall contractors who do not use union labor and are not parties to union agreements with the Carpenters Union. These are the same unions who have been empowered by SB 33, Prevailing Wage Rate on Public Works Projects, signed by Governor Richardson on 4/7/09, to establish the carpenter wages for public works construction projects in the future.

Your article discusses the difficulty your reporter encountered in finding any person within the Carpenters Union who would accept responsibility for this campaign against APS, First Baptist Church, Thornburg Financial, UNM, Schott Solar, Sunflower Market and a restaurant on "Restaurant Row" on I-25 south of Jefferson. The Albuquerque Journal's follow-up article, "Protester: Fired for Talking," 4/14/09, demonstrates the unions' business and personnel practices: secrecy and denial

about what they are doing and quick action against anyone that interferes with their plans.

If the Carpenters Union will not claim responsibility for its campaign, it is doubtful it will be accountable for future unchecked, unjustified wage demands that will adversely affect the taxpayers' return for the tax dollars funding public construction.

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Albuquerque

E-Verify program is a small price to pay

It's comes as no surprise that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has vehemently opposed the E-Verify program. The program, with a 99.4 percent accuracy rate, checks the legal status of job applicants. The Chamber's opposition is not unexpected since there is a cost to a business of \$4 to \$20 for each applicant status verification. All businesses that are awarded a federal contract over \$100,000 are required to E-Verify. The recent stimulus package is going to create hundreds of thousands of jobs; most will fall under the E-Verify requirement.

While I understand the Chamber's opposition to adding costs to doing business, I have a problem with their narrow-minded view. What the Chamber of Commerce is forgetting, or perhaps conveniently ignoring, is that the price

Business

Outlook

MONEY RATES + PAGE 14



MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2009

ONE-ON-ONE

*Paul Hopkins on preachers, counseling
and ethics.*

PAGE 4