

LABORERS VOTE...LABORERS WIN!

MARTIN J. WALSH ELECTED MAYOR OF BOSTON

It was a momentous and historic day for the Laborers' International Union of North America as one of our own, Local 223 member Martin J. Walsh, was inaugurated as Mayor of the City of Boston, becoming the city's 54th Mayor and ushering a new spirit of hope and optimism for a younger generation of Bostonians.

Among the thousands of attendees and special guests representing the worlds of government, labor, and business were LIUNA General President Terry O'Sullivan and LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni, along with other representatives from LIUNA's General Executive Board, the New England Regional Office, and the Massachusetts and Northern New England Laborers' District Council.

"It was an unforgettable moment for us as Laborers, as General President O'Sullivan and I witnessed the inauguration of our union brother and Local 223 member Martin J. Walsh to the office of Mayor of the great city of Boston. Mayor Walsh is a true example of how one man from a working class background can conquer the challenges of life and attain his dream. His union background is clearly evident in his ability to bring disparate groups together in cooperation to promote progress for the greater good. I couldn't be more proud to call Mayor Martin Walsh my union brother and friend, and now, Mayor of the city of Boston," said LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni.

At age seven, Mayor Walsh survived a bout of Burkett's Lymphoma, a form of childhood cancer. After attending St. Margaret's School in Dorchester and Newman Prep High School, Mayor Walsh followed in his father's footsteps to become a union laborer, working his first job at the age of 18 at Commonwealth Pier (now known as the World Trade Center) on the South Boston waterfront. With both his father and uncle active in leadership of Laborers Local 223, the Walsh household was filled with discussions about politics, the labor movement, and the importance of being involved.

In 1997, he won election to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, representing the 13th Suffolk District, which includes Dorchester and ranks among the most diverse districts in the state. In the House, he established himself as a leader on creating and protecting jobs, and growing the economy. He is the author of landmark public construction law reforms that increased flexibility and accountability, helped

pass transit-oriented mixed-use "smart growth district" legislation, and has been a strong supporter of infrastructure and zoning improvements.

During the fiscal crisis of the past several years, Mayor Walsh was a key broker in compromise legislation giving municipalities more tools to negotiate substantial savings on health insurance benefits while protecting the rights of hard-working people. A founding board member of the Neighborhood House Public Charter School, Marty has been an aggressive advocate for strong public schools. Mayor Walsh simultaneously rose through the ranks of his union eventually serving as Laborers' Local 223 President. In 2011, he was elected to lead the Building and Construction Trades Council of the Metropolitan District.

As head of the Building Trades, he worked with business and community leaders and city officials to promote high quality development, producing construction and permanent jobs for the city, along with new tax revenue. Mayor Walsh negotiated a Project Labor Agreement that helped pave the way for the building that is to be home to Vertex Pharmaceuticals, the anchor of Boston's new Innovation District. In partnership with the Boston Housing Authority, he created Building Pathways, a pre-apprentice program connecting building trades jobs and opportunities with those traditionally underrepresented in the industry, mainly women and people of color. Last year, he and the Building Trades graduated an all-women class, possibly the first of its kind in the nation.

In his moving inaugural address, Mayor Walsh offered these inspiring words, "To everyone who knocked on doors in the blazing heat, braved cold mornings, held signs, made phone calls, voted, and convinced their friends and family to vote – even if it wasn't for me – thank you. You made Boston a stronger city and reminded us of our shared values and aspirations. Together, we are all taking an oath to make our beloved city even better, because that's what it will take – all of us working together. Young people working hard in school for a future they can only imagine. Entrepreneurs in small start-ups, with big dreams. Parents working two or three jobs to make ends meet, because they don't want their kids to do the same. Soldiers home from war, looking for work. My sisters and brothers in the labor movement, who fight every day to build the middle class...I am listening. I will keep listening. We will move Boston forward together."

