

# UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA

## NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS



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Dear Union Member,

As we begin a new year, all of us do so with the hope that 2011 will be a brighter one for our union families than the previous two years when the New York economy has suffered greatly from this deep recession. I believe that as we begin the new year that it will be in the best interests of our members to begin immediate contract negotiations with our signatory contractors so that we can look forward to 2011 with more certainty than what we faced in 2009 and 2010.

In taking this action, this means preserving critical work and jobs for our members, increasing market share for union employment and working in partnership with our signatory employer associations in achieving our mutual interests of being more competitive in a down-turned environment.

Another measure we are taking is to forego the \$2.13 an hour wage increase which was to have been effective January 1. We all bear responsibility in looking out for our brothers and sisters who have been out of work in recent months, so I hope you will understand the intent behind this action because we believe this will preserve carpenter members jobs and increase potential employment opportunities in the near term.

As we open contract negotiations, our market share is an area of concern for all of us. Market share for union contractors varies widely from very strong in areas of heavy construction and large-scale projects to very weak in such areas as affordable housing and charter schools.

In 2010, we fought aggressively to uphold the area standards in all markets. Our biggest wins have come in the retail and commercial interior renovations market. With the beginning of a new year, I want our union contractors to understand that our Council intends to fight hard for the interests of our members, but that we do this in the spirit of partnership. We want to continue to explore new and innovative ways for us to be better industry partners. By doing so, it can be a win-win situation for both parties.

In the coming weeks, we will be communicating with you regularly around organizing and negotiation updates. In the meantime, please feel free to be in touch with me if you have comments or questions. I can be reached at 212-366-7500 or by email at [fspencer@nyccarpenter.com](mailto:fspencer@nyccarpenter.com).

Fraternally yours,

Frank G. Spencer

Eastern District Vice President

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