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# Construction Labor

**REPORT**

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**State News**

## **New York**

### **New York City Comptroller Launches Publicity Campaign on Worker Rights**


NEW YORK--The New York City official responsible for enforcing state prevailing wage laws in city contracts announced Feb. 24 that he is launching a publicity campaign to educate workers on their rights to full payment of wages due under the laws.

City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr., in announcing the step, presented it as a way of expanding and strengthening the city's enforcement of prevailing wage laws, by encouraging workers to report any instances where they have not received their legal wages on a city project.

Earlier in the month, Thompson announced a \$1.5 million settlement with an electrical contractor on behalf of 16 workers who were underpaid on city Human Resources Administration cable installation projects (51 CLR 1684, 2/22/06)  . The settlement was the second highest in the city's history in a prevailing wage case, he said.

"We've helped thousands of workers get back wages owed to them," Thompson said in a statement. He urged workers on city projects to contact his office's Bureau of Labor Law "if you believe your employer is not complying with the law."

The publicity campaign will rely on flyers, in Spanish and English, identifying the minimum hourly wages that workers should be receiving in a variety of job classifications, Thompson said, including bricklayer, carpenter, electrician, painter, plumber, security guard, and sheet metal worker. The prevailing wage rates are determined by the comptroller's office.

For more information, go to the comptroller's site at <http://www.comptroller.nyc.gov> on the World Wide Web. 

*By John Herzfeld*

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Contact customer relations at: [customercare@bna.com](mailto:customercare@bna.com) or 1-800-372-1033

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