

Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters



*Affiliated with
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America*



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters continues to expose unscrupulous contractors

Seattle, Washington- September 19, 2014 The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters is pleased to announce that after a long investigation Dathan Williams will be sentenced today at 1:00pm at the King County Courthouse room W965 on charges incurred through unlawful operation of his drywall contractor business. This investigation was launched due in part to efforts of the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters to expose contractors who skirt legal requirements, and conduct payroll fraud throughout the Northwest.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters would like to thank the Seattle Police Department, Washington State L&I, and any other State Agency involved in bringing Dathan Williams to justice for his unscrupulous business practices.

“This was a particularly outrageous case of cheating workers out of their wages,” said Elizabeth Smith, assistant director for Fraud Prevention & Labor Standards at the Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I). “Dathan Williams refused to pay his workers the required prevailing wage for public works jobs, then lied about that to the government. By paying workers a fraction of what they should have received, he won bids for construction projects that should have gone to legitimate contractors who pay their employees fairly.”

“While the guilty plea from Mr. Williams is a good thing, the truth is he is just one of many contractors who operate their construction businesses this way. He is just one small piece of an enormous pie,” says Ben Basom, Communications Director for the Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters. “The business practices of Dathan Williams are part of a large scale problem that we face nation wide. There are thousands of contractors conducting themselves in the same manner. Payroll fraud cheats the worker, legitimate contractors, and eliminates money that should be going to State and Federal coffers to pay for schools, roads, and other important public services.”
Continues Basom.

The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters represents over 21,000 carpenters throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska. The Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters advocates for fair treatment and fair pay for all Carpenters, and works diligently to expose payroll fraud.

L&I played an integral role in the criminal investigation. In addition, from 2011 to 2013, L&I audited Williams’s drywall businesses for misrepresenting worker hours to evade workers’ compensation premiums and for prevailing wage complaints. In one of Williams’s projects, the Moses Lake Civic Center, L&I worked out a settlement with the project’s prime contractor to obtain more than \$67,000 in back wages for 26 drywall workers.

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