

## **Grievances and Arbitrations<sup>1</sup>**

### **Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Arbitrations**

MARBA received one arbitration request this month regarding the information required on an employee's paycheck.

### **Laborers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Laborers Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in April. The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2021, at the Laborers Burr Ridge office.

### **Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee**

The Operating Engineers Joint Grievance Committee did not meet in April. The next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021, at the offices of Local 150 beginning at 8:30 a.m. There are currently ten (10) on the docket.

### **Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee**

The Teamsters Joint Grievance Committee met on April 29, 2021 to hear one grievance. The grievance involved a member who was not recalled to work while their truck was being utilized. The JGC was unable to reach a majority decision on this matter. As a result, the grievance was deadlocked. The Union retains the right to pursue this matter through the arbitration provision of the CBA. The next meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2021, at Teamsters office in Burr Ridge. There is currently one (1) grievance pending.

## **Collective Bargaining/Labor Issues**

### **2021 Negotiation Update**

Negotiations Update emails are sent out on a weekly basis (generally every Friday). There have been a few settlements in the downstate areas. Many of those downstate agreements expire at the end of April whereas many of the agreements in the Chicagoland area expire at the end of May. You can find the latest negotiation update by clicking [here](#). If you would like to be added to the list for negotiation update emails please contact Aaron Janik, Executive Director, at [ajanik@marba.org](mailto:ajanik@marba.org).

## **Industry News**

### **Lincoln Yards Looking to Break Ground This Summer**

One of the most talked about projects in the Chicago area is set to break ground later this summer with a 320,000 square foot life sciences building on the southern portion of the Lincoln Yards development. The project, situated on 53-acres near the north branch of the Chicago river, would transform the city's skyline. Along with the life sciences building other portions of the first phase of development include a 350,000 square foot office building, an 800 unit apartment building, and a park. A bridge connecting the north and south portions of the parcel would be developed at a later date. The project, initially approved by the Chicago City Council two years ago, totals 14.5 million square feet in development space. The site, situated on an old steel mill, has required remediation of 26,000 tons of contaminated soil prior to the development breaking ground.

## State of the Economy

### Economic Indicators

Unemployment Rate	March 2021 U.S. 6.0%, Illinois 7.1% (40 <sup>th</sup> )
Labor Participation Rate	March 2021 = 61.5%, February 2021 = 61.4%
CPI All Urban Consumers	March 2021 versus March 2020 = 2.62%
CPI Chicago All Items	March 2021 versus March 2020 = 2.61%
CPI Midwest All Items	March 2021 versus March 2020 = 2.96%
Union Membership	2020 10.8% (Private Sector 6.3%), 2019 = 10.3%
Rate of Unionized Construction Workers	12.7% (2020), 13.6% (2019), 13.8% (2018), 14.0% (2017)
30 Year Fixed Mortgage	March 3.08%, up 0.27% (February 2.81%)
15 Year Fixed Mortgage	March 2.39%, up 0.15% (February 2.24%)
Brent Crude Oil Price	\$ 66.64 per barrel (as of April 30, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.) \$145.61 per barrel all time high July 2008 \$ 2.23 per barrel all time low May 1970
Privately Owned New Housing Building Permits	2.7% above revised February rate (+/-1.7%) 30.2% above March 2020 rate (+/-1.8%)
Privately Owned New Housing Starts	19.4% above revised February rate (+/-13.7%) 37.0% above March 2020 rate (+/-15.2%)
GDP	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter 2021 = 6.4% 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter 2020 3 <sup>rd</sup> Reading = 4.3%
DJIA	33,880.97 as of April 30, 2021 (close) 32,981.55 as of March 31, 2021 (close)

### **Janik's J.D. – An Update on Labor/Construction Legal Issues** **Aaron Janik – Executive Director MARBA**

#### Industry Coalition Advances Safe Roads Amendment Litigation to Illinois Supreme Court

In 2016 Illinois voters approved the Safe Roads Amendment by an overwhelming majority (almost 80% of voters voted in favor of it). The Amendment codified the proposition under the Illinois Constitution that revenue derived from transportation sources must be put in a “lock box” and spent only on transportation projects (roads, bridges, etc.). This lock box would avoid transportation monies being “swept” up and put into the general revenue fund. Despite the language of the amendment Cook County took money that was derived from transportation sources and diverted the money to non-transportation expenses.

As a result of Cook County’s actions, a group of industry associations filed suit against the County alleging the County violated the constitutional amendment. The Circuit Court of Cook County issued a decision in favor of the County and the coalition appealed that decision. The Appellate Court, earlier this year, affirmed the circuit court’s decision holding that the Safe Roads Amendment does not, “sequester revenues from transportation-related taxes spent by home-rule units pursuant to their independent constitutional spending power.” The coalition has asked the Illinois Supreme Court to take the case on appeal. A decision on whether the case will be heard on the appeal is not likely until later this fall. At that point, should the Supreme Court decided to take the case, a hearing would need to occur. That most likely would push the final decision in this matter until sometime in 2022. This is definitely a case to watch not only in Illinois but in other states with similar constitutional amendments. A copy of the Appellate Court decision can be found by clicking [here](#).

Upcoming Seminars/Events	Calendar	
<p><b><u>GLCA Mini Golf and Happy Hour</u></b></p> <p>Join the GLCA as they “putt” their mini-golf skills to the test</p> <p>Date: Thursday May 6, 2021  Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  Location: 21771 N. Milwaukee  Lincolnshire, IL  Cost: \$25 per person  Contact: GLCA office or click <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>May 11</p> <p>May 12</p> <p>May 13</p> <p>May 13</p> <p>May 25</p> <p>May 27</p>	<p>12:00 p.m. MARBA Board Meeting (hybrid)</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Local 150 JGC (Countryside)</p> <p>7:30 a.m. CGAC Board Meeting (Oakbrook)</p> <p>8:00 a.m. Bricklayers Fund Meeting (phone)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Laborers JGC (Burr Ridge)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Teamsters JGC (Burr Ridge)</p>
<p><b>Did You Know:</b> The Haymarket Riot occurred on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1886. 100 people were wounded and 6 killed during the protest.</p>		

<sup>i</sup> Information for MARBA Matters was obtained from the following sources: BNA Construction Labor Reports, Crain’s Chicago Business, Northwest Times of Indiana, Chicago Tribune, and Sun-Times, CDQ, and the BLS, as well as various websites and other publications.

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