

## **MARTY WALSH NOMINATED LABOR SECRETARY**

Marty Walsh, the mayor of Boston has been selected to be Secretary of Labor by the Biden-Harris campaign. A former union member with an extensive labor background and personal friend of Biden, Walsh is widely esteemed by unions across the country. Walsh is a staunch advocate of organized labor. He first joined Laborers Local 223 in 1988, working his way up to president of that union in 2005. Six years later he was appointed to lead 35,000 ironworkers, pipefitters, and other laborers in the Building Trades Council. As mayor, two of his aides were charged with bullying music festival organizers into hiring union workers. The case was subsequently dismissed because no *quid pro quo* was proven.

In lobbying for Walsh to be in this cabinet position, Lee Saunders, President of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees, wrote: “There’s no doubt he’d be a high profile and passionate fighter for workers’ rights.” Similar sentiments were voiced by AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka: “Walsh knows that collective bargaining is essential to building back better by combating inequality, beating COVID-19 and expanding opportunities for immigrants, women and people of color.”

However, business owners in Boston apparently wonder what workers. Paul Craney of Massachusetts Fiscal Alliance was celebratory about Walsh leaving Boston : “He’s never been known to be someone who advocates for any type of business [or] employer concerns.” Added Craney, “He will do whatever Big Labor asks him to do.” Walsh will rubber stamp what union bosses put before him, Craney contends.

Assuming Walsh’s confirmation, only time will tell if and how OSHA will change under his direction.