

Re. City Council Meeting on October 22, 2026 - Consent Agenda Item 40

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro-Tem, and City Councillors,

I am writing on behalf of the members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 205 to communicate our support for the October 22, 2026 council meeting agenda item 40, a resolution setting minimum standards for vendors seeking to provide event services to the Austin Convention Center.

Our union represents entertainment employees who work backstage at live events in Austin. These include theatrical productions, music concerts, trade shows, and conventions. Before the Austin Convention Center closed, the events it hosted accounted for as much as 48% of our work annually. The closure has had a substantial adverse impact on our members. In addition to losing wages during a time of unprecedented rising costs, we are also losing valuable employer contributions that cover the cost of health insurance, and employer contributions that fund our retirement plans.

As you can imagine, we are very much looking forward to the opening of the new, expanded Convention Center. However, we are also resolved to do everything in our power to ensure that when the work returns, it provides good, safe jobs for those of us who live here and work in the entertainment industry. Supporting agenda item 40, a resolution that attempts to set minimum industry standards here in Austin, is a step in the right direction.

The resolution speaks to the City's history of supporting the local workforce by requiring reasonable and fair labor standards through contracting. Competitive wages are especially important for workers in a gig economy, such as the one our represented stagehands work in; we do not experience the typical 40 hour work week, and count on our contracts to provide employer healthcare contributions, based on a percentage of our hourly wage. Additionally, requiring industry-recognized certifications, such as OSHA, and using ETCP Recognized Labor Providers, like IATSE Local 205, ensures a safer work environment. Installing and dismantling the equipment used during convention events is physically demanding and sometimes dangerous. Employing stagehands who are trained to prevent, recognize, and mitigate potential hazards makes everyone safer, including convention patrons.

We hope you agree with the points we have raised. Furthermore, we hope you will vote in favor of agenda item 40.

Yours sincerely,




Jeff Miller | President

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