

Auto Body Labor Rate Advisory Board
Meeting held on December 22, 2025 at 2 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Michael Powers, Co-Chair
Stacey Gotham, Co-Chair
Mark Merante
Rick Starbard
Brian Bernard
Matthew Ciaschini
Christopher Stark
Peter Smith
Samantha Tracy
Paul Burke
Sean Kane
John Kwoka
David Brown

Call to Order:

Co-Chair Powers called a virtual meeting of the Auto Body Labor Rate Advisory Board, hereby known as the Board, to order with a roll-call vote. All Board members responded present besides JC Burton.

Introductions & Minutes Approval:

Co-Chair Powers began the meeting by giving an introduction. Board Member Stark motioned to approve the minutes from the Board's meeting on November 24. Board Member Burke seconded the motion, and it passed by unanimous roll-call vote, excluding the co-chairs who did not vote.

Discussion & Vote on Report:

Co-Chair Powers discussed the Board's work, noting that the Board met ten times and implemented two surveys. Co-Chair Powers thanked people who provided assistance on the report. He also noted that it was decided at the Board's previous meeting that the report would attach all Board member recommendations as appendixes.

Board Member Smith motioned to adopt the report as written, and Board Member Burke seconded this motion.

Board Member Kwoka said the report is accurate and thorough, but there is an omission. He suggested adding language to signal that six of the nine Board members who submitted recommendations favored increasing labor rates.

Board Member Starbard stated that he agreed with Board Member Kwoka, and he noted an error in the report regarding enrollment numbers for the Lynn Vocational Technical Institute's auto body repair program. Board Member Starbard introduced an amendment to the previous motion to include a statement in the report that six of the nine Board member recommendations favored increasing labor rates.

The Board conducted a roll-call vote on this amendment. The votes were as follows:

Merante – No

Kane – Yes

Burke – No

Burton – Not present

Kwoka – Yes

Brown – Yes

Stark – No

Smith – No

Tracy – No

Starbard – Yes

Ciaschini – Yes

Gotham – No

Powers – No

The motion failed in a 6-7 vote.

The Board then conducted a roll-call vote on Board Member Stark's original motion to approve the report as written. The votes were as follows:

Merante – Yes

Burton – Not present

Kwoka – No

Brown – No

Burke – Yes

Stark – Yes

Smith – Yes

Tracy – Yes

Starbard – No

Bernard – No

Ciaschini – No
Gotham – Yes
Powers – Yes

The motion passed in a 7-6 vote.

Vote on Process for Final Meeting's Minutes:

Co-Chairs Powers suggested the Board vote to give Co-Chair Powers permission to approve the final meeting's minutes at a later date. Board Member Burke made this motion, and Board Member Smith seconded it. The Board conducted a roll-call vote, and the votes were as follows:

Merante – Yes
Kane – Abstain
Burton – Not present
Kwoka – Abstain
Brown – Abstain
Stark – Yes
Smith – Yes
Tracy – Yes
Starbard – Abstain
Bernard – Abstain
Ciaschini – Abstain

The motion passed in a 4-0 vote.

Motion to Adjourn:

Board Member Burke motioned to adjourn, and Board Member Stark seconded this motion. The Board conducted a roll-call vote, and the votes were as follows:

Merante – Yes
Kane – Abstain
Burton – Not present
Kwoka – Yes
Brown – Yes
Stark – Yes
Smith – Yes
Tracy – Yes
Starbard – Yes
Bernard – Abstain
Ciaschini – Abstain

The motion passed in a 7-0 vote, and the meeting was adjourned.

Documents referenced in this meeting:

Auto Body Labor Rate Advisory Board Report