



LABORERS DISTRICT COUNCIL MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA

Affiliated with Laborers International Union
of North America

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Warning: Child Labor Used On A School Project Managed By Derau Construction

Derau Construction should not be permitted to perform work on school or other public construction projects. Derau was so negligent in its management of a 2014 Edina school construction project that the company, presumably unintentionally, allowed an apparent 13- or 14-year-old boy to perform dangerous work without personal protective equipment.

On multiple occasions in June 2014, Laborers Union staff witnessed a boy who was apparently 13 or 14 years old working on a construction project at Edina's Cornelia Elementary School for which Derau served as the general contractor (see photos below). The boy was observed performing potentially dangerous tasks such as operating machinery and cutting block with a concrete saw.

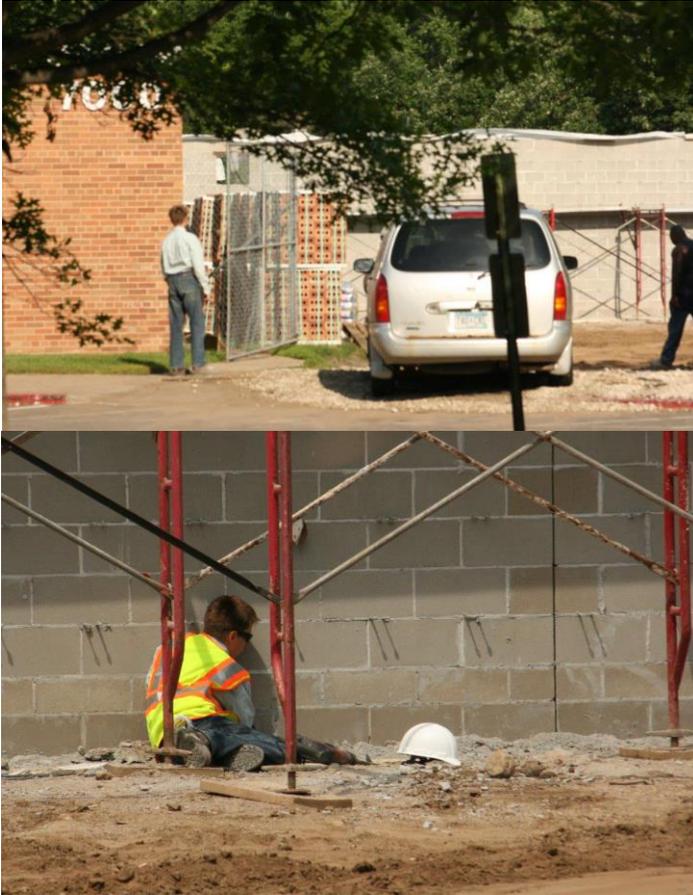
Laborers Union staff made multiple visits to the construction site during a two-week period to confirm that the boy was underage and performing dangerous construction work. At no point were Derau personnel seen on site supervising the project. An investigation by the Edina School District verified the presence of a minor on the construction site.

We have identified four small school construction projects that were awarded to Derau in 2015: Osseo's Educational Service Center (\$141,200), a Burnsville Nicollet Junior High locker room (\$802,175), a Rosemount High School elevator modernization (\$320,800), and Lakeville wall alterations (\$38,400). In each case, we discovered that the work had been awarded too late to warn the district. Laborers Union staff have made multiple visits to each site, and spoken to subcontractors on several occasions but we have yet to encounter a single evident Derau employee supervising or performing work.

In Burnsville, the largest of the four, our staff found apparent Derau subcontractor Structure Construction workers performing demolition work (using a chipping hammer) without eye protection. Minnesota state court records appear to show that Dion Rozumny, the listed owner of Structure Contracting, has multiple misdemeanor convictions including a recent (2014) conviction for violating a domestic protection order.

The Osseo project appeared to be behind schedule based on construction work we observed taking place after the substantial completion date listed in the bid specifications had passed. It remains to be seen whether Derau will fulfill the company's contracts for the Lakeville and Rosemount projects, but nothing our staff saw there has changed our view that Derau is not a reliable, quality contractor.

The Laborers Union strongly recommends that public construction owner reject bids by Derau Construction. We also recommend that public construction owners that have inadvertently awarded work to Derau Construction closely monitor the company's work. In addition to the potential risks to children, inadequate supervision by a general contractor can contribute to delays, defects, and unsafe conditions on a construction project.



Sample press coverage:

[CNN: Minnesota Labor Department investigating report of child working on school expansion \(7/3/14\)](#)

[Sun-Current: Union alleges child labor at Edina construction site \(7/9/14\)](#)

[Star Tribune: Twin Cities union spots child labor again \(7/15/14\)](#)

[The Atlantic: How Common is Child Labor in the U.S.? \(12/15/14\)](#)

For more information contact:

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Attached:

[Appendix A – Minnesota Trial Court Public Access Criminal Records Search for Rozumny, Dion \(7/1/15\)](#)

[Appendix B – Minnesota Trial Court Public Access Civil Records Search for Rozumny, Dion \(7/1/15\)](#)

[Appendix C – Minnesota Trial Court Register of Actions Case No. 19WSCR1313143 - State of MN vs. Dion Michael Rozumny \(Conviction for Domest – Violate Order for Protection\)](#)