



November 30, 2020

By Email (achapdelaine@town.arlington.ma.us)
and First Class Mail

Adam W. Chapdelaine
Town of Arlington
Office of Town Manager
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476

RE: Harold Brothers HVAC Bid – Arlington High School Project

Dear Mr. Chapdelaine:

This correspondence is in response to your letter of November 25, 2020 in which you advised us that Harold Brothers Mechanical Contractors bid to perform the HVAC work on the Arlington High School Project was rejected despite representing the low bid by \$385,600, a substantial sum that we are quite sure the Town could put to good use elsewhere in its school budget.

We understand that the basis for the rejection was the “omissions of the OSHA violations in multiple submissions [being] a cause for concern regarding the accuracy and veracity of important workplace safety information.” First, Harold Brothers did not intentionally omit OSHA information and as recognized in the bid documents our OSHA history is a matter of public record that is available online. The fact is that we are proud of our record of compliance on work-place safety and we respectfully request that you reconsider your position.

As reflected in our Statement of Qualifications and Update Statements, Harold Brothers has performed dozens of major projects, many on public school buildings, and has had hundreds of employees working on these projects. In 2019 alone our workers logged over half a million hours and in 2018 we were just short of that with 497,617 hours. This year is tracking to reflect similar figures although COVID slowed us down earlier in the year. Against this extraordinary level of performance, we have had *two* OSHA violations about which we have provided you all relevant documentation. As you know, in neither event was an employee injured as a result of a work-place safety issue. In the first, the employee had a pre-existing condition that led to a heart-attack and in the second the employee did not follow proper procedures for handling certain tools despite having received appropriate instruction in that regard. These two incidents must be viewed in the context of Harold Brothers having performed more than 1 Million man-hours of work.

Our commitment to safety is further reflected in our establishment of Harold Brothers Training Institute, LLC (“HBTI”), a privately held Mechanical and Safety Training Center in Weymouth, Massachusetts. Although initially started as a private training center for the employees of Harold Brothers Mechanical Contractors, we have opened their training center to the local licensed plumbers and apprentices in the South Shore area and have provided workplace safety training to literally thousands of people. HBTI is an approved provider for Massachusetts Mandatory Continuing Education for plumbers and also provides OSHA Outreach 10-hour and 30-hour Construction Safety Programs. HBTI is run by Harold Brothers’ Director of Safety and Training, Gerald Fusco, a lifelong plumbing and safety instructor.

In short, it is hard to conceive of a company more committed to worker safety than we are. We invite you to visit our shop, meet Mr. Fusco, and investigate fully our commitment to safety. As the Town’s day-today manager, making a decision to forgo \$385,400 of savings for the Town in light of the forging seems imprudent. We believe that it is in both the Town’s and your best interest to look at this issue more thoroughly as part of the due diligence process and we are confident that if you do so you will satisfy yourself that Harold Brothers is the lowest responsible bidder and should be selected for this contract.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. Harold

Patrick Harold
President

cc:

Marie Krepelka (mkrepelka@town.arlington.ma.us), Administrator, Select Board
James Burrows (Jim.Burrows@skanska.com) - Skansa USA Building