

Alfred McQuirter
Domestic Policy Subcommittee
Oversight and Government Reform Committee
New Orleans, Louisiana
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Katrina Clean Up

My name is Alfred McQuirter. I used to live in Cleveland for 26 years. I helped campaign for you, Congressman Kucinich, when you ran for mayor.

I had been living in Atlanta when Katrina hit. I was running a parking lot in Atlanta right before the storm and came down here to work because of the promise of big money. Rev. Harrison Braddy promised us \$25 an hour. But that kind of money was a pipe dream.

After working for Braddy for a couple of months, I ended up working for Mike Noble who ran Fast Track – he later changed the name to Xpress Staff. Fast Track was a subcontractor for Waste Management.

I worked during the hurricane clean up as a garbage man. I picked up debris and worked on the dump trucks. Braddy had gotten us down to New Orleans under false pretense. He lied and said we wouldn't have to pay rent and he'd put us up in a house. Well, he did put us up in a house, but he charged us rent. At first it was around \$70 a week, but at times I paid up to \$280 a week. Mike Noble took over after a couple of months and said he'd change things, but didn't.

Under Mike Noble, for the first couple of months, I was paid around \$100 a week. But if one guy got sick and couldn't work, Noble would take out something from everyone's paychecks and say a mistake had been made back in Tennessee. He would postpone and postpone

paying us and then give us \$25 here and there. But all our paychecks kept coming up short.

There was nothing leftover after getting food. And there was never any overtime pay although Noble claimed overtime was added in. We had filled out tax forms and Noble was supposed to be taking money out for taxes. I never got any tax forms back from the government. I worked an average of 60 – 80 hours a week. I kept working for Noble until around July 2006.

I didn't know anything about the Department of Labor. I didn't know the Department of Labor or anyone could help get my money back.

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