



**Business Manager  
Secretary-Treasurer**  
Michael Hogan

585 Aero Drive  
Cheektowaga, NY  
14225

**PHONE**  
716.565.0303

**FAX**  
716.565.0306

**WEBSITE**  
www.dc4.org



IUPAT DC4 of WNY & CNY

**Territorial Jurisdiction**  
Proudly serving western  
and central New York in  
the counties of Allegany,  
Broome, Cattaraugus, Cayuga,  
Chautauqua,  
Chemung, Chenango, Cortland,  
Delaware, Erie, Genesee,  
Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis,  
Livingston, Madison,  
Monroe, Niagara,  
Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario,  
Orleans,  
Oswego, Otsego,  
Schuyler, Seneca,  
Steuben, St. Lawrence,  
Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne,  
Wyoming and Yates.



PAINTERS - DECORATORS - PAPERHANGERS - DRYWALL FINISHERS - STRUCTURAL STEEL - CIVIL SERVICE - GLAZIERS & GLASS WORKERS - SIGN PAINTERS - PAINT MAKERS & ALLIED INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

# District Council #4

International Union of  
PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES OF AMERICA AND CANADA, AFL-CIO-CLC

Members of the Legislature.

DC LEG APR 23 '26 4:10:59

I am from Nicaragua. I came to the United States ~~three~~<sup>four</sup> years ago, and I have worked in construction the entire time I have been here. I joined District Council 4 last year.

Before I joined the union, my life was not stable. Work was inconsistent, and my pay was unpredictable. I did not know what I would be making from week to week, and it was hard to plan anything. Since joining District Council 4, the biggest change in my life has been stability. I now have consistent wages and a structure that allows me to plan ahead. I can pay my bills on time and support myself with some level of security.

But even with that, I am living in fear right now.

I am not just worried. I am terrified. I try to stay out of sight as much as I can. I limit where I go. I go to work and then I go home. Even doing that, I do not feel safe. I am always thinking about the possibility of being stopped or questioned.

I came here to work. I have worked hard every day since I arrived. I found a place in the construction industry. I joined a union. I am trying to build a stable life. But I feel like I have to hide. That fear affects everything. It is always in the back of my mind. It makes it hard to feel like I belong, even when I am working and contributing like everyone else around me. It is isolating.

I know there are many other workers who feel the same way. When people are this afraid, they do not speak up. They do not report problems or stand up for themselves, even when something is wrong.

I am trying to do the right thing and build a life here. I should not have to live in fear while doing that.

No one should.

Thank you for your consideration in the very important cause.