

Contact:

- President/owner: Jason Blunt
- Address: 639 Mill St., Ottumwa, IA 52501
- Website: <http://www.bridgecityconstruction.com>
- Phone: (641) 684-0375

**About:**

Bridge City Construction Inc. is a for-profit corporation based in Ottumwa, Iowa, that specializes in the erection of pre-engineered metal buildings and structural steel. Bridge City Construction's known project history includes primarily private work, but they have worked on public projects such as the recently-constructed Pickwick Early Childhood Center, which is part of the Ottumwa Community School District.

Started in 2002, Bridge City is registered with the Iowa Secretary of State as of 2004. Owner Jason Blunt owns or is connected to several other businesses in Ottumwa, including Bridge City Sanitation and Environmental Edge, an asbestos abatement company. According to CLEAR, annual sales for Bridge City Construction are approximately \$3.6m; Bridge City Sanitation sales are estimated at \$300,000 per year annually. Environmental Edge sales are undetermined.

Bridge City Sanitation has a 10-year contract (start date: July 2011) with the City of Ottumwa for trash/recycling pick up. Research has not found any other municipalities contracted with Bridge City Sanitation.

Environmental Edge is a separate, but closely related business to Bridge City Construction – sharing an address and executive Jason Blunt, and housed under Bridge City Investments LLC as a fictitious name. Dustan Smith is the primary leadership for Environmental Edge, which performs asbestos abatement in the area. Their website claims that many of their past customers included publicly-funded universities and area cities in Iowa.

Jason Blunt and associated entities have a long history of property investing in Wapello County, in primarily residential sectors. Since 2002, nearly 50 properties have been associated with Bridge City Construction, Bridge City Investments, and Bridge City Sanitation; 31 are linked to Jason Blunt personally, and another 32 are tied to Blunt Investments, LLC.

The Issues:

Workers at Bridge City Construction report a serious lack of safety on the job, wage theft, and other issues including discriminatory behavior. Workers are demanding that Bridge City address these issues, so workers can have dignity, safety, and respect on the job. These issues include:

- Low pay and lack of real benefits like retirement or health insurance
- Misclassification. Bridge City shirks responsibility for its employees by misclassifying many as 1099/independent contractors
- Workers are threatened and intimidated for trying to make a change
- Workers are required to buy their own power tools
- Workers must provide their own safety equipment
- Workers injured on the job do not receive proper care or compensation
- Unauthorized pay deductions for broken tools or equipment
- No safety training available to workers

On Friday, June 15, 2018, on behalf of themselves and their fellow co-workers, two Bridge City Construction employees walked out on strike in an effort to solve the above issues, among others. With community support, these workers call on Jason Blunt and Bridge City Construction to meet with workers to discuss a plan to resolve these substandard working conditions for the benefit of all current and future workers at Bridge City Construction.