



Service Employees International Union

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Concourse Village Signs Contract; Other Bronx Owners Refuse  
--Fordham Hill, Still Holding Out, Fires 10 Workers --**

**New York, NY**—As sixty Concourse Village building workers regained their health coverage this week after a successful nine-month contract fight, ten workers at Fordham Hill, another Bronx apartment complex, were fired.

“The Concourse Village Board of Directors has finally done right by signing a fair contract with health care for its hard-working employees,” said Local 32BJ Vice-President Kyle Bragg. “However, the firings at Fordham Hill show that its board remains out of step with responsible Bronx owners.”

The Concourse Village workers, many of whom have more than 30 years of service, lost health coverage at the beginning of this year when the board failed to pay into their medical plan. They had been working without a contract since April and walked off the job Jan. 10 for four days after board members threatened workers who were participating in a legal protest the loss of health care.

“I have a heart condition and a new-born baby and we depend on the health insurance to survive,” said Gerald Turner, who has worked at the Concourse Village for five years. “The past month has been a struggle, but I’m thankful our benefits are back.”

The decision by Concourse Village to sign a three-year agreement reinstates the workers’ health care plan--which includes medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage--and requires the board to make retroactive payments to the health fund from May 2005. Following the board’s formal acceptance of the contract on Thursday night, the contract must be ratified by the workers.

At Fordham Hill, where workers have been without a contract since March, ten workers were laid off Jan. 18. The Fordham Hill Owners Corp., which manages the 1,100-unit cooperative at Sedgwick Avenue and Fordham Road in the Bronx, refused to negotiate with the union about the decision as required by law. The National Labor Relations Board is investigating unfair labor practice charges filed by Local 32BJ on behalf of the fired workers.

The 60 Concourse Village workers were among hundreds of workers at dozens of Bronx buildings where owners have allowed health care to lapse in recent months.

Concourse Village is a sprawling six-building, 1,883 apartment complex in the shadows of Yankee Stadium that opened in 1965 as part of New York State’s Mitchell-Lama Housing Program.

With more than 85,000 members, including 4,500 in the Bronx, Local 32BJ is the largest private sector union in New York and the largest property service union in the United States.

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