



# NEWS

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

## **TOP SECURITY CONTRACTORS RECOGNIZE UNION**

*Union to Bargain Contract for 1,000 Officers with Admiral, Allied & Securitas*

**Washington, DC** – Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Council Members Kwame Brown and Jim Graham today joined Local 32BJ to announce that the union has gained the first-ever commitment from top private commercial security providers to negotiate a contract to improve the training, working conditions, pay and benefits for more than 1,000 officers in Washington. Together, Admiral Security Services, Allied Barton Security Services and Securitas secure nearly 70% of Washington’s commercial office space.

As a result, Local 32BJ now represents workers in many prominent Washington buildings including: The Ronald Reagan Building, National Press Building, Watergate Office Buildings, the National Geographic Building, Gallery Place, NPR headquarters, Columbia Square and Lafayette Center.

“By raising security standards, these three industry leaders are setting an example for others to follow,” said Norton. “Strengthening the security officer workforce will enhance the quality of service which benefits businesses and the community alike. Improved training and compensation can reduce high turnover and turn these dead-end jobs into good jobs that help workers support their families.”

“Security officers, some of whom are paid as little as \$8.24 an hour, are working with Local 32BJ to achieve better wages and access to affordable health care, as well as respect and a voice at work,” said Local 32BJ Vice President, Valarie Long. “With most security officers being African-American, higher wages would help these hard working men and women support their families and give back to local business in their communities.”

The campaign to organize security officers started in March 2004, leading the way for up to 50,000 nationwide in the effort to help security officers achieve decent wages and access to affordable health care.

“Higher wages would mean I could get what I need to support my family without a struggle,” said Charla Fletcher, an Admiral-employed security officer. “The union will help us get more respect and better training.”

With more than 85,000 members in six states, including 8,000 in the Washington, D.C. area, Local 32BJ is the largest property services union in the country.

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