



# NEWS

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW JERSEY CLEANERS REJECT CONTRACT PROPOSALS**  
*- Employer Proposals Fall Short; Strike Vote and Rally Set for December 13<sup>th</sup> -*

**Newark, NJ** – Local 32BJ cleaners rejected proposals by contractors that would provide an inadequate wage increase and do nothing to help create more full time jobs. The two sides met yesterday for the third time. Negotiations for a new union contract covering nearly 7,000 commercial property service workers in New Jersey began on October 29<sup>th</sup>, when Local 32BJ presented contract proposals to cleaning contractors, including American Building Maintenance (ABM), Allan and UNICCO.

“With the New Jersey real estate market prospering, especially along the Hudson waterfront, cleaning contractors should not hold back on a real raise for hard-working cleaners,” said Kevin Brown, Local 32BJ New Jersey Director. “We are ready to fight for wage hikes and more full-time jobs, both of which will help lift workers out of poverty.”

The Northern/Central New Jersey real estate market is seeing a favorable upswing, with vacancy rates are at their lowest since 2002 and rental rates on the rise. Further, rents for northern New Jersey office space is projected to increase 17% from 2007 to 2011.

Current wages for the nearly 7,000 commercial workers, who work at approximately 450 office buildings and facilities throughout New Jersey, range from \$9.75 to \$12.50 per hour. Failure to reach a new contract by 12:01 a.m. on January 1, 2008, when the current contract expires, could lead to a strike.

Local 32BJ will hold a rally on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. at Bears & Eagle Riverfront Stadium in Newark. At that time, members will vote to authorize their bargaining committee to call for a strike, if it becomes necessary.

New Jersey is one of six markets in the northeast to negotiate a new commercial contract this fall. Most of the contracts – which cover nearly 50,000 commercial members from Hartford, CT to Washington, DC – are set to expire on December 31, 2007. Currently, more than 150,000 people – workers and their family members – receive health care through 32BJ commercial contracts.

With more than 85,000 members in six states and Washington, DC, including more than 7,000 workers in New Jersey, Local 32BJ is the largest property services union in the country.

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