



SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICE CLEANERS TAKE THEIR CASE FOR RAISES TO THE INTERNET
GlobeSt.com Ad Highlights Prospering Real Estate Market

New York, NY – With the contract covering 26,000 commercial cleaners in New York City set to expire within the month, Local 32BJ SEIU is taking its fight for a new contract straight to the people who hold the purse strings by placing an ad on GlobeSt.com, a commercial real estate website. The click-through ad, which contrasts soaring industry profits with dropping worker wages, can be found on the New York City page of the GlobeSt site: <http://www.globest.com/news/newyork/>. The ad will run throughout December.

“While the commercial real estate industry basks in record profits, the men and women who clean offices struggle to make ends meet,” said Michael Fishman, Local 32BJ President. “Our ad shows that the \$248 billion industry can afford to give office cleaners a raise without upsetting their bottom line.”

The numbers show:

- Rents are up 26% this year and are expected to rise through 2011;
- Vacancy rates are down to a six-year low;
- Building values have gone up 62.1% in the past three years; and
- Revenue is up to \$21.6 billion a year.

Bargaining for a new contract in New York City began on October 24, 2007. Failure to reach a new contract by December 31, 2007, when the current contract expires, could lead to a strike of some 26,000 commercial property service workers at more than 2,000 buildings, including the World Financial Center, the Met Life building and the Empire State Building.

New York is one of six markets in the northeast to negotiate new commercial contracts this fall. Nearly 50,000 commercial members from Hartford, CT to Washington, D.C. are seeking contracts that raise and maintain wage and benefit standards.

With more than 85,000 members in six states, including 65,000 in New York City, Local 32BJ is the largest property service union in the country.

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