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SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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7,000 CAPITAL AREA & BALTIMORE CLEANERS WIN NEW CONTRACTS WITH MAJOR WAGE INCREASES & EMPLOYER-PAID HEALTH BENEFITS

Washington, DC -The Local 32BJ Bargaining Committee tonight announced tentative agreement on four-year contracts, subject to ratification, covering 4,500 commercial cleaners in Washington, D.C., 1,500 cleaners in Montgomery County, Maryland and 700 Baltimore cleaners that provide significant wage increases, employer-paid family prescription drug coverage for all workers and significantly improved health benefits for full-time workers.

"These contracts provide tens of millions of dollars in wage gains and health benefits for nearly 7,000 office cleaners that will help them better support their families and their communities," said Jaime Contreras, Local 32BJ Capital Area Director. "And for the first time, all cleaners will receive employer-paid prescription drug coverage, which prevents workers and their families from being at risk of costly illness."

WASHINGTON, D.C.

The contract covers 4,500 commercial cleaners working in hundreds of commercial properties in Washington, D.C. such as Washington Square, International Square, Georgetown's Washington Harbor and One Franklin Square. Over the next four years, cleaners will receive a 24% pay increase and full-time cleaners will have lower co-pays under the employer-paid health benefit. For the first time, all part-time cleaners will receive life insurance, employer-paid family benefits for prescription drugs, dental and vision.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The contract covers more than 1,500 cleaners at over 150 buildings in Montgomery County, including the Chevy Chase Bank Building, the Discovery Building, Rock Spring Office Park. The agreement provides a 27% pay increase for Montgomery County cleaners. Under the agreement, cleaners will also receive up to two weeks vacation and employer-paid family prescription drug coverage.

BALTIMORE

The contract covers more than 700 cleaners at over 40 Baltimore buildings, including the Candler Building, Legg Mason Building and the Bank of America Building. The agreement provides a 28% pay increase for cleaners in Baltimore. Under the agreement, cleaners will also receive up to two weeks vacation and employer-paid family prescription drug coverage. The agreement will also add dental and vision benefits to the employer-paid health plan covering full-time workers.

"These contracts provide substantial increases in wages and benefits, which will help lift cleaners out of poverty," said Mike Fishman, Local 32BJ President. "This is an historic victory for Local 32BJ members in the Washington and Baltimore area who are united with 32BJ members up and down the East Coast."

Local 32BJ reached the four-year agreements with the Commercial Building Cleaning Contractors Association, an organization representing the area's major commercial cleaning companies. The Baltimore and Montgomery County agreements were reached just days before the contracts were set to expire. The contract covering cleaners

in the Washington area was settled months before its April 2008 expiration. Union members must still ratify the tentative agreements.

"This pay raise will make a huge difference for me and my co-workers," said Francisco Romero, an ABM-employed cleaner in Rockville, MD. "And now I can finally afford to buy medicine when I get sick."

Cleaners in Philadelphia, PA, Hartford, CT and New Jersey recently won new commercial contracts with significant wage and benefit increases. Similar negotiations are underway in New York City, Westchester, Fairfield County, CT and Long Island. Altogether, nearly 50,000 commercial members are united in a campaign to secure new contracts that raise wage and benefit standards.

With more than 85,000 members in six states, including 9,000 in the Washington D.C.-Maryland area, Local 32BJ is the largest property service workers union in the country.

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