



NEWS

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SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**LONG ISLAND OFFICE CLEANERS WIN NEW CONTRACT THAT PROVIDES
SIGNIFICANT WAGE INCREASES AND IMPROVED HEALTH BENEFITS**

New Four-Year Contract Will Provide up to 20.5% Wage Increases

East Meadow, NY – The Local 32BJ Long Island Bargaining Committee reached a tentative agreement with Long Island’s largest cleaning contractors yesterday afternoon. The new four-year contract will result in wage increases of up to 20.5 percent, an increase in the starting wage rate and improved health benefits for part-time workers. Full-time workers will retain fully employer paid family health insurance. The new contract covers 1,000 office and property cleaners on Long Island.

“The new contract provides wage increases and benefits that hard-working office cleaners need to support their families,” said Shirley Aldebol, Local 32BJ Long Island Director.

Over the four years, workers will receive a two-dollar wage increase, which amounts to 17.4% to 20.5% increases for workers who currently earn between \$9.75 and \$11.50 an hour. Starting wages will also increase from \$9.75 to \$11.35 by the end of the contract.

Part-time workers will receive improved health benefits, including an enhanced prescription drug benefit, dental and optical insurance and life insurance. Full-time workers will retain fully employer paid family health insurance.

“Expanding health benefits for office cleaners, which was one of our top goals in this contract campaign, will lead to healthier families and communities on Long Island,” said Michael Fishman, Local 32BJ President.

The union will continue talks with Mayco Building Services, which employs approximately 80 office cleaners on Long Island, and the few other cleaning contractors that have not attended the ongoing contract negotiations. In 2005, workers employed by Mayco went on strike when their health care was threatened by the company's failure to sign a new contract.

Local 32BJ members in Connecticut, the Hudson Valley and New Jersey have all overwhelmingly ratified new contracts, and 26,000 members in New York City have a tentative agreement which will be ratified through mail-in ballot by the end of the month. Office cleaners in Philadelphia and the greater Washington, DC area have also ratified new contracts this year.

“This agreement is a major victory for Long Island cleaners who have been united with Local 32BJ members from Hartford, CT to Washington, DC in a campaign to make work pay,” Héctor Figueroa, Local 32BJ Secretary-Treasurer.

With more than 85,000 members in six states and Washington, DC, including 1,200 in Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island, Local 32BJ is the largest property services union in the country.

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