



NEWS

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SECURITY OFFICERS WIN MAJOR WAGE HIKES

\$9.75 Million Contract Raises Wage and Benefit Standards for Officers at City Buildings

Philadelphia, PA – Security officers who protect public buildings including City Hall, City Council, Public Health Centers and the shelters run by the Office of Supportive Housing overwhelmingly approved a new union contract on Saturday that will raise wages by 70% over the life of the contract. The four-year contract between Local 32BJ SEIU and Scotlandyard Security Services, which significantly raises wages and provides health care, will go into effect immediately. The ratification vote essentially completes the process of raising standards for all security officers working under City-funded contracts.

“Nearly a year ago, we set out to improve conditions for all hard-working security officers who keep city buildings safe,” said Wayne MacManiman, Local 32BJ Mid-Atlantic Director. “This contract provides a real raise and health care, which will go a long way in helping officers better their lives and give back to the local community. When employers and unions work together, workers win.”

The contract provides an 11.5% increase in wages in each year of the agreement. Unarmed officers now earning \$8.50 to \$9 per hour with no benefits, paid vacation or sick days will see their hourly wage increase to \$13.02 in the first year, plus fully employer paid single health coverage, 2 weeks paid time off and free legal assistance through the 32BJ Legal Services Fund. By the end of the four-year contract, unarmed officers will earn \$14.52 an hour and armed officers will earn \$19.85 an hour. Approximately 70 officers are covered by this agreement.

“Our new union contract is a true victory. Everything is getting so expensive, from groceries to gasoline, so the wage increases will really help me with monthly expenses,” said Brandi Segers, an officer from the City’s Public Health Center #5. “And, finally having health insurance is going to be a weight off my mind. Living without health care or paid sick days causes constant anxiety.”

In July 2007, Local 32BJ reached agreement with Scotlandyard to organize the company’s employees through card-check recognition, and at that time signed a contract for approximately 55 officers at the Triplex. The campaign to improve wages and benefits for security officers in Philadelphia is part of the union’s campaign to raise standards across the private security industry. Most recently, Local 32BJ announced agreement on a first-ever contract for 1,500 security officers in Washington, D.C., which will raise average wages and benefits by 30%. In New York City, Local 32BJ is negotiating new contracts for 4,000 officers with several major building owners and security contractors, as well as working with non-union officers through the “Stand for Security” organizing campaign.

“For too long, private security officers have been left behind – in low wage, dead end jobs,” said Michael Fishman, Local 32BJ President. “Now, we’re improving this industry by uniting officers and winning strong contracts, which empower security officers to get ahead.”

With 100,000 members in six states and Washington, D.C., including more than 8,000 in Philadelphia, Local 32BJ is the largest property services union in the country.

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