

THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK & NEW JERSEY
PORT AUTHORITY NEWS BULLETIN

Offices of the Chairman and Executive Director

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We would like to take the opportunity to provide everyone with an update on the status of the Agency's labor negotiations.

As of today, we are proud to report we have reached signed agreements with the following seven Port Authority unions:

- Transport Workers Union, Local 1400
- International Union of Operating Engineers, Locals 15, 30, & 68
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 3
- The Maintenance Division of the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York
- The Communications Workers of America, Local 1032
- United Service Workers Union – International Union of Journeymen and Allied Trades, Local Union 111S, Port Authority Field Supervisors Association
- United Service Workers Union – International Union of Journeymen and Allied Trades, Local Union 111M, Port Authority Maintenance Supervisors Association

Two of these signed agreements have now been ratified by their members with overwhelming support – more than 95% in each vote. The additional agreements are now out for ratification and will be voted on by their members in the near future.

Together, these agreements cover more than 2,100 employees and account for 95% of the Port Authority's civilian (non-police) represented workforce. As we discuss below, we are committed to continue to seek new agreements with our police unions, the unions representing PATH workers and one additional PA civilian union.

The dedicated PA workers covered by the seven signed agreements listed above had been without contracts for an unacceptable and inexcusable amount of time – in some cases longer than 10 years. The absence of a contractual commitment between the Agency and its represented employees is at odds with the need to do right by workers who faithfully serve the public every day. And it is at odds with the public’s right to efficient and cost-effective delivery of vital services. Nobody who dedicates themselves to this Agency should face the insecurity that working so long without a contract can impose.

We are incredibly grateful and gratified to be turning the page on this period and moving into a much stronger and more productive relationship with our workforce – one that gives workers the certainty they deserve and better equips us to achieve together our ambitious goals in support of our mission.

Labor negotiations, of course, are complicated. It has been difficult work. The negotiations were tough and intense. We believe the final agreements are fair. We thank the labor leaders who were at the table for working so hard to advance their members’ interests by finding provisions that work for both sides.

The Board of Commissioners recognized the complexity of this challenge and the critical importance of addressing it quickly. In March, it took the extraordinary measure of delegating to us the authority to jointly approve any labor agreements within certain parameters that emerged from a new round of negotiations with unions. The Board made clear that it wanted a new day with respect to the Agency’s labor relations, and how serious it was about creating the conditions that would allow for rapid progress.

Our work, however, is not done. We have not yet realized our goal of reaching agreements with all of our unions, including those representing PATH and PAPD as well as one additional PA civilian union. While the Board’s delegation expired on August 1, we have instructed our negotiating team to keep working to advance discussions, and to bring additional agreements to the Board for approval with all appropriate speed. We expect these negotiations to be as intense and tough as those we have just concluded, and we are hopeful they will yield strong agreements.

We won’t be satisfied until 100% of our represented workforce has new contracts. But we’re happy to report on this very meaningful progress for the thousands of our employees it impacts.

Kevin J. O’Toole

Chairman

Rick Cotton

Executive
Director