

From: Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**THE REALTY ADVISORY BOARD ON LABOR RELATIONS AND LOCAL 32BJ
REACH TENTATIVE LABOR AGREEMENT FOR NEW YORK CITY'S
COMMERCIAL BUILDING SERVICE WORKERS**

New York, NY (December 30, 2011) – The Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations (RAB) tonight announced that it has reached a tentative labor agreement with SEIU Local 32BJ, the union representing commercial building service workers in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island. The RAB, negotiating on behalf of commercial building owners and operators, called the tentative agreement a fair and equitable contract that accurately reflects today's tough economic times.

Under this tentative labor agreement, New York City's Local 32BJ members will continue to be the highest paid commercial building service workers in the country in one of the most heavily unionized job sectors in the city.

"We are pleased to have reached a tentative agreement with the union that protects workers' wages and benefits, and provides crucial cost-savings to building owners, who have been battered in this deep recession," said Howard Rothschild, president of the RAB. "The tentative agreement reached tonight will help strengthen the real estate industry, creating much needed jobs across the city. I want to thank the union and its leadership for their work and commitment to reaching this fair agreement. I also want to thank our negotiating committee, led by John Santora, John Whalen and Paul Salvatore, for their tireless commitment to the collective bargaining process."

The tentative agreement is subject to ratification by both the union membership and RAB board. When ratified, the contract will last until December 31, 2015. The commercial contract covers more than 20,000 commercial building service workers, including office cleaners and maintenance workers in more than 1,000 commercial buildings throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. The RAB represents the owners and operators of those buildings as well as the majority of the cleaning contractors in the City.

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