

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 11, 2018

### **Statement from Howard Rothschild, President of the Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations, on 32BJ Strike Authorization**

“We are hopeful there will be no strike and are working to reach a fair agreement by April 20. Our relationship with the union has resulted in more than 25 years of uninterrupted labor peace and we continue to work towards that same goal this year.”

#### **Background**

Today’s vote and rally does not mean there will be a strike. 32BJ has had strike authorization votes and rallies for residential workers every contract year since 1994, but, in each of those years, the contract was settled amicably and no strikes took place.

The current labor agreement, which was negotiated in 2014, covers more than 30,000 residential building service workers, including doorpersons, porters, handypersons and building superintendents, in more than 3,000 residential buildings throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island.

The relationship between the industry and its workers is one of the best in the country. Collective bargaining based on mutual respect has led to uninterrupted labor agreements for more than 25 years, with the last apartment building strike being in 1991 and before that in the 1970s.

Residential building service work is a great middle class occupation. The cost to employers for an average doorperson or porter is more than \$85,000 in wages and benefits and for a handyperson, more than \$91,000 in wages and benefits. All employees receive generous benefits packages including full family health insurance covering medical, dental, optical and prescription drug coverage, with no premium contribution from the employee.

All workers also receive a defined benefit pension fund and 401K annuity with an employer contribution, training and legal benefits and have up to 49 paid days off for holiday, vacation, sick and medical time.

#### **The Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations, Inc., (RAB)**

The Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations (RAB) was formed in 1933 as an organization through which employers in the building service industry could bargain with the union. The RAB represents building owners in one of the most unionized industries in New York City and its building service workers are among one of the highest paid in the country.

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