



*For Immediate Release*

## **Newark Housing Authority and Union Reach Pact**

**Newark, NJ—March 3, 2009**—The Newark Housing Authority and the Service Employees International Union (S.E.I.U.) Local 617 have jointly entered a new 4-year collective bargaining agreement.

The previous contract expired March 31, 2007.

The following terms were agreed to by both the NHA and S.E.I.U. Local 617:

- Contract length changed from three years to four
- Wage increases of 2 percent in first year and 3 percent each year in second through fourth years
- New “call-in” policy guaranteeing 2.5 hours minimum at 1.5 hourly rate
- Employees who receive uniforms will now receive an extra set of uniforms, extra spring jacket and caps.
- Full-time NHA employee who had been released from NHA duties to focus on union issues will be returned to NHA duties.
- The NHA prescription drug program will be eliminated for retirees, requiring them to utilize the State prescription drug program.

“Local 617 is our largest bargaining unit and it was a long negotiation that in the end produced a document which will benefit both the represented employees it covers and the NHA’s interests,” said Executive Director Keith Kinard.

“I am pleased we have reached common grounds and we can now all move forward,” Chairman Modia Butler said.

The contract is effective from April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2011.

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