

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, May 20, 2008

**Labor, community rally to pack Atlantic City on June 21**  
***Major demonstration to support workers' fight for fair contracts***

**ATLANTIC CITY:** A united labor movement, backed by community supporters, will stage a major demonstration in downtown Atlantic City on June 21, union members announced today.

Thousands of people are expected to attend the labor and community mobilization, to back the fight by Atlantic City casino dealers, slot technicians, keno and simulcast employees and other workers for fair contracts. Speakers will include UAW President Ron Gettelfinger and AFL-CIO President John Sweeney.

"We're excited that people will be coming from all over the country to support us," said Robert Beck, a casino dealer at Bally's. "We're winning elections, we're winning legislation – and now we're going to have support from the entire labor movement and our community to win fair contracts."

Since March 2007, casino workers have organized and won six union representation elections at four major Atlantic City casinos: Caesars, Trump Plaza, Bally's and Tropicana.

Despite overwhelming pro-union majorities and elections that have been recognized by the National Labor Relations Board, casino operators have repeatedly stalled contract talks, and none of the workers who voted for union representation has a signed contract – yet.

"The story today is we are winning in Atlantic City, and we are going to keep winning," said Ernestine Dawkins, a casino dealer at Tropicana. "Our election victories were great – and it was amazing that when we came together as a union we were able to win a smoking ban (in April 2008) that people had been talking about for years.

"Now our focus is on winning good contracts and having a huge rally in the streets of Atlantic City is going to be a major boost for all of us."

"Atlantic City is a union town, and the casino industry here is a union industry," said Charlie Wowkanec, president of the New Jersey State AFL-CIO. "Inside every Atlantic City casino, the waiters, the bartenders, the drivers, the maintenance staff, the housekeeping staff – they all have a union and the protection of a union contract.



## **Labor, community rally to pack. . 2**

“If dealers and slot techs and other workers want a contract, they have the same right. “We’re going to make sure the casino operators hear that message loud and clear on June 21.”

“We’re very proud that Atlantic City casino dealers chose to be part of the UAW,” said Kevin Donovan, assistant director of UAW Region 9, which includes New Jersey. “They voted to form their own unions – and in America, when all the votes are counted, the results have to mean something. Here in Atlantic City that means these workers have the right to negotiate a contract.

“We’re going to be here on June 21 to show our strength and our pride and to show the casino operators that it’s long past time to come to the table and negotiate fair labor agreements.”

The June 21 rally will begin at noon. For more information, contact the UAW AC/Dealers at (609) 340-0006 or visit [www.June21ACRally.org](http://www.June21ACRally.org)

# # #

RK:sr  
opeiu494