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**Immediate Release**

**Hudson County Board of Commissioners urge the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to negotiate in Good Faith with service workers at Newark Liberty International Airport**

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***Hudson County***- The Hudson County Board of Commissioners urge the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to negotiate in good faith with service workers at Newark Liberty International Airport.

Over two hundred service workers at Newark Liberty International Airport are also residents of Hudson County.

Airport workers at Newark Liberty International Airport provide valuable services to the airport and thereby to the communities that rely on the airport, including the residents of Hudson County.

Newark and New York City airports are some of the most heavily trafficked globally, and they rely on an experienced, well-trained, highly motivated workforce to assist in identifying security issues, emergency response, operating equipment safely, and providing experienced customer service.

In 2018, the Port Authority amended its minimum wage policy for non-trade workers to bring the minimum wage for airport service workers at John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia, and Newark Liberty Airports to \$19.00 by September of 2023, with no scheduled increases beyond this date.

The United States has seen its highest inflation in four decades since the Port last implemented a wage policy.

The Port Authority's policy did not require that employers provide their employees with a health insurance supplement or paid leave.

The New York and New Jersey Healthy Terminals Acts, which passed in 2020 and 2021, created uneven coverage between the two states, with New York airport workers receiving fewer and worse benefits for the same jobs as New Jersey residents.

In Hudson County, we have seen how transformative the strong benefits supplement and paid leave provisions of New Jersey's policy have been for our working families and know that New York City airport workers would benefit from the same.

A uniform Port Authority policy mandating healthcare and paid leave would eliminate the discrepancies between New York and New Jersey policies, ensuring equal access for all airport service workers and equal contributions from all airport contractors.

Airport service workers are essential workers who risked their own health and safety to keep the rest of our country and economy up and running during the COVID-19 pandemic, and as such they are especially deserving of and in need of adequate healthcare.

Research finds that increased compensation decreases turnover across industries and specifically at airports.

According to various reports, high worker turnover at airports resulting in an inexperienced workforce is detrimental to airport safety

A paid leave, health insurance, and wage increase requirement will allow airport contractors to compete with other local employers to attract and retain a skilled and stable workforce to operate airport infrastructure.

It is in the interests of the traveling public to have experienced, quality airport workers to safeguard travelers and airport safety.

Board Chairman Anthony Romano and the Hudson County Board of County Commissioners urges the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to amend its Minimum Wage Policy to increase its minimum wage and require health insurance and

paid vacation and holidays for all airport service workers at John F. Kennedy, LaGuardia, and Newark Liberty Airports.

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