



JNESO

DISTRICT COUNCIL 1, IUOE / AFL-CIO
the professional health care union

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For Immediate Release

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Nurses Vote “NO” on HUMC Management’s Proposed Contract Strike Authorized

North Brunswick, N.J. – Nurses represented by JNESO District Council 1 IUOE-AFL-CIO voted an overwhelming “NO” to management’s proposed contract offer at Hoboken University Medical Center citing insensitivity to the needs and concerns of nurses and inadequate focus on safe staffing provisions.

The contract, which covers more than 300 nurses, expired in September of 2021 and nurses have been working without a contract. Eight negotiation sessions have been held but JNESO says management is just not listening.

The biggest issues are:

- **Appropriate Staffing:** Which protects the quality and efficacy of patient care and keeps the most qualified and trained nurses in specific units – not floating them to units where they have not been trained or oriented to work.
- **Health Care:** The extremely high cost of coverage for the nurse’s own health care.
- **Working Conditions:** Position/Unit Inequities and overall conditions of the facility.

“Our members are angry,” said Douglas Placa, Executive Director of JNESO. “After all these nurses have been through since March of 2020, it is a slap in the face for management to not even consider staffing as a vital issue and propose that members pay more than is reasonable for health care – when they work for a hospital! Management also continues to inexplicably move nurses from one unit to another without the appropriate training or resources which is dangerous to the patients and could be career-altering for the nurses put in this position.”

“They have had two years to plan and make adjustments to meet the changing needs of patient care, it’s as if the last two years didn’t happen and once again management falls short,” he added.

Placa stated, “Our nurses want fairness, they want to be heard, and particularly now with Omicron rising and the continuing extreme demand for care. Something has to be done to get management to open their eyes and make a real effort to address these issues.”

The strike authorization means that members have agreed to strike if an agreement can’t be reached in a reasonable time, but an official notice of intention to strike has not been enacted yet.

JNESO District Council 1 is a healthcare union representing more than 5,000 nurses and other health care workers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. For more information, visit <http://www.jneso.org/>

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1.12.22