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**1,100 Einstein Nurses Reach a Critical Contract Deal,**

**Averting a Strike**

*Nurses at Einstein Medical Center avert a strike by winning a new contract with better staffing and working conditions, as well as language that protects nurses if the hospital is sold.*

**Philadelphia, PA --** After almost a full year of at times contentious bargaining, nurses at Einstein Medical Center have won a contract with successorship, among other gains, safeguarding their contract, jobs, and earned time in the event that the hospital is sold to a new owner.

*“Einstein Medical Center was one of the hardest hit hospitals during the first wave of the pandemic. Nurses and healthcare professionals have selflessly sacrificed during the COVID-19 pandemic at great personal risk to themselves,” said PASNAP President Maureen May, R.N. “With the positive resolution of this contract fight on the cusp of a second surge of the virus, the needs of our frontline workers have been respected and their patient communities are further protected. We are thrilled.”*

The nurses’ new contract addresses:

* **Successorship.** Given the issues ongoing at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, where new owners Tower Health and Drexel University threw out the nurses’ existing contract the day they bought the hospital and the fact that Einstein is clearly on the market, winning successorship language was a critical victory, ensuring the retention of skilled Einstein nurses and continuity of care for the surrounding community.
* **Safe Staffing.** The new contract adds additional nurses to increase staffing and maintains language that protects against staffing reductions.
* **PTO Allotment.** The new contract adds thousands of hours of available needed rest time fixing worsening work life balance issues in a time of increasing stress.
* **Experience Recognition.**The new contract protects the nurses’ experienced-based wage scale, with average increases ranging around 7.5% over a two and a half year period.

Patrick Kelly, R.N. a critical care nurse and Co-President of the nurses’ union at Einstein stated “After a year of negotiations I am very excited to finally have a ratification vote. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. As Co-President of the union and an employee with 23 years of service with Einstein, I believe this is a fair contract and it will assist our nurses in providing excellent care to our community.”

“We were happy to reach an agreement” said Peg Lawson, R.N. an Emergency Room nurse and Co-President. “This agreement not only improves work/life balance but also adds more nurses at the bedside and language that protects us in case of a sale. We are happy to continue providing the top-notch care that our patients expect and deserve and that this contract will make it easier for us to provide.”

Meanwhile, 20 miles away, 800 nurses at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne have been locked out by Trinity Health Systems management during their dispute for a first contract over similar issues. The lockout is scheduled to end Sunday morning.

The Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals represents 8,500 nurses and healthcare professionals across the Commonwealth.