



## **Press Release**

### **National Labor Relations Board**

#### **Office of the General Counsel**

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### **Ballot count finds Houston nurses favor union representation**

A ballot count today found that nurses at Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center Hospital in Houston, Texas, have voted in favor of union representation for the second time in two years.

In late March of 2008, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) conducted a secret ballot election at the hospital, and a majority of the ballots were cast in favor of representation by the California Nurses Association/National Nurses Organizing Committee (CNA/NNOC). The NLRB certified the CNA/NNOC as the exclusive bargaining representative of approximately 270 registered nurses at the hospital.

The union's status as bargaining representative was called into question a year later, when an employee filed a petition with the NLRB seeking the union's decertification. In late June, 2009, the NLRB conducted a decertification election among the same employees. However, as a result of unfair labor practice charges filed during and after the election period, the ballot count was delayed until today. The count found that 113 votes were cast in favor of retaining the union with 97 in favor of decertification. Another 9 ballots were challenged, an insufficient number to affect the outcome.

The National Labor Relations Board is an independent federal agency vested with the power to safeguard employees' rights to organize and to determine whether to have unions as their bargaining representative. The agency also acts to prevent and remedy unfair labor practices committed by private sector employers and unions.

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