

The Venetian Inks First-Ever Agreement With Las Vegas Union (1)

By Diego Areas Munhoz 2024-08-20T14:20:08000-04:00

- Union had been in negotiations overnight to reach initial pact
- Casino's owners have sought to improve relationship with labor

The powerful union representing Las Vegas casino and hotel workers said it has entered into a tentative labor agreement with The Venetian for the first time in the resort's history.

If ratified, the contract would cover more than 4,000 workers at The Venetian, which opened its doors 25 years ago, the Culinary Workers Union Local 226 announced Tuesday. The pact's provisions include wage increases, safety protections, and a choice regarding health-care benefits, according to the union representing housekeepers, bartenders, cooks, bellmen, and food servers at some of the largest resorts on the Las Vegas Strip and in Reno, Nev.

The union—which reached labor agreements with Caesars Entertainment Inc., MGM Resorts International, and Wynn Resorts Ltd. late last year to [avert a strike](#) in one of the nation's largest tourism capitals—has sought for years to organize the Italian-themed Venetian. It said it will soon schedule a contract ratification vote for members.

"I'm so ecstatic right now!" Maureen Kimbro, a housekeeper at the resort, said following the agreement's announcement. "It's a very historic event."

Local 226 had signed a card check neutrality [agreement](#) with The Venetian and its sister resort, The Palazzo, last summer, as the casino's new owners have sought to improve relations with the union.

The hotel's founder, Sheldon Adelson, had a [contentious](#) relationship with organized labor. Adelson died in January 2021, and his company Las Vegas Sands Corp. sold the casino to Apollo Global Management Inc. and Vici Properties Inc. later that year.

Ted Pappageorge, the union's secretary-treasurer, called the agreement "historic" in an interview with Bloomberg Law. Adelson was an "ideologue" while the new casino owners "did the right thing," he

added.

“We got a tremendous contract, and we’re very proud of that and we’re happy with our relationship with Apollo, the new owners,” Pappageorge said. “It was the last non-union casino on the strip—quite an accomplishment, a milestone.”

Patrick Nichols, president & chief executive officer for The Venetian Resort, said in a statement Tuesday that the company has “a long history” of putting its workers’ needs at the center of its decision-making process.

“We look forward to ratification of the agreement and to a positive and productive relationship working alongside both the Joint Executive Board and our Team Members,” said Nichols.

(Adds statements from Pappageorge and Nichols in paragraphs seven through 10.)

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