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take one

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a publication for the people of University Hospital

HOSPITAL AND UNION REACH AGREEMENT; STRIKE ENDS

Negotiators from University Hospital and District 1199 reached agreement on a new two-year contract at 3:30 p.m. this afternoon, thus ending a six-day strike. The agreement, which required ratification by the 1199 members at a 4 p.m. meeting, goes into effect immediately, with all workers returning to the job with the scheduled shifts at 7 a.m. Monday morning.

The settlement was described by negotiators as being "well within the guidelines--and the spirit--of Chapter 372," the Massachusetts hospital cost-containment law. Walter Levensaler, UH personnel/labor relations administrator, characterized the new contract as "a fair settlement with respect to other unions in the Hospital, with District 1199 accepting the same sort of terms our other employees accepted." He expressed pleasure that "we now will have all of our people back on the floors and doing their jobs."

The agreement provides an increase for District 1199 employees of 3.45 percent in the first year and 3.77 percent in the second year.

In order to gain these increases, District 1199 agreed to make concessions with respect to overtime, agreed to wait 18 months before any increases in shift differentials, and agreed to freeze the minimum hiring rates for the life of the contract.