



Tropicana latest target of Atlantic City union drive

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The United Auto Workers union today filed a petition with the National Labor Relations Board to represent approximately 1,000 dealers, dual-rate dealers, and keno and simulcast employees at the Tropicana Casino and Resort. The union already has won elections at Caesars Atlantic City, Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino and Bally's Atlantic City, and lost elections at Atlantic City Hilton and Trump Marina Hotel Casino. The union typically requires union authorization cards from between 60 and 65 percent of workers before filing a petition.

New owners have been on a cost-cutting drive since acquiring the casino in January, and nearly 1,000 workers have been laid off since then.

"Tropicana dealers have joined the thousands of other Atlantic City dealers who feel strongly about the benefits of belonging to a union," said Joe Ashton, the UAW's regional director for New Jersey, Pennsylvania and upstate New York.

"Almost every other group of casino workers has the protections of a union contract," he said. "Now it's the dealers turn, and we're happy to help them form their union."

The casino had no immediate comment on the filing.

The UAW currently represents about 6,000 gaming employees in Atlantic City, Detroit and Newport, R.I. Its goal is to represent dealers at all 11 Atlantic City casinos.

- *Maya Rao, Press Staff Writer & The Associated Press*

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