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## **Dutchess County , employees reach agreement on five-year pact**

Dutchess County Executive William Steinhaus, Sheriff Adrian “Butch” Anderson and Sheriff’s Employees Association President Todd Mikus announced yesterday that they have reached agreement on a new labor agreement.

The five-year pact runs from January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2006 , and covers approximately 280 employees, comprised of correction officers, maintenance and support staff at the county jail, and Sheriff Office support staff.

Dutchess County has prior agreements in place with its 106 member Deputy Sheriffs' Police Benevolent Association, representing the law enforcement division for the period from January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2004 . The 1310 member Civil Service Employees Association also has a prior agreement in place running from January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2004 .

Steinhaus said the new contract is “fair to both the employees and the taxpayers” of the county.

When ratified by the union membership and approved by the County Legislature , the new agreement will provide employees with cost-of-living increases of three percent in 2002, three percent in 2003, three percent in 2004, 3.25 percent in 2005 and 3.75 percent, effective September 1, 2006 .

Union employees will also receive step increments and longevity increments for length of service in addition to the cost of living adjustments. The settlement also includes adjustments to employee health insurance plans designed to maintain affordable health care coverage for county employees, while still providing fiscal control over escalating health care costs for both the employer and the employee.