

Local 1181-1061
Amalgamated Transit Union A.F.L.-C.I.O.

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October 25th, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

ATU Local 1181 stands in 100% solidarity with USW Local 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers' Union, in its struggle to stop the union-busting corporation Veolia Transportation in its illegal attack the union's members, leadership and contract.

Upon information and belief, since day one of taking over the Boston school bus management contract on July 1, 2013, Veolia has committed numerous Unfair Labor Practices, violated nearly every term and condition of the drivers' employment contract, and engaged in actions designed to steal literally millions of dollars from drivers' paychecks. In the process, Veolia has sacrificed student safety on the altar of profit.

On October 8th, when drivers engaged in a legally protected protest of Veolia's unfair labor practices, Veolia wrongly called the police and forcibly removed the drivers, illegally locking the gates and refusing to let the drivers back in to work. Boston Mayor Menino and Veolia then targeted 5 officers of Local 8751 for termination, which disciplinary hearing is scheduled for Monday, October 28th. Boston School Bus Drivers Union Local 8751 exemplifies what a labor union should be. Not only has its members been successful in winning living wages, benefits and unprecedented contract language, this local is willing to extend real solidarity to other workers whenever possible.

The "Boston School Bus Union 5" - Grievance Chair Steve Kirschbaum, Recording Secretary Andre Francois, Vice President Steve Gillis, Steward Garry Murchison and Steward Rick Lynch – organized a busload of Local 8751 members who traveled to New York City to join our picket lines this past February. In fact, a video of this act of solidarity - of Brother Steve Kirschbaum speaking to our striking ATU members in Brooklyn – is included in Veolia's "evidence" being used to "prove" the case for these leaders' termination!

This union-busting action by Veolia Transportation is outrageous. Solidarity is not a crime. Standing up with the members' for their rights is not a crime. All of labor needs to stand up and say, "We will join ranks to ensure that Veolia's crime will not succeed, in Boston or any of its world-wide operations."

Veolia: "Hands Off the Boston School Bus Union 5!"

Stop the attacks on USW Local 8751!

In solidarity,

Michael Cordiello
President / Business Agent
ATU Local 1181-1061