

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
COMMITTEES
AGING
AGRICULTURE
EDUCATION
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
& MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



TONY AVELLA
SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT

ALBANY OFFICE: ☐
ROOM 504, LOB
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2210 OFFICE
(518) 426-6736 FAX

DISTRICT OFFICE: ☐
38-50 BELL BOULEVARD
SUITE C
BAYSIDE, NEW YORK 11361
(718) 357-3094 OFFICE
(718) 357-3491 FAX

INTERNET ADDRESS:
AVELLA@NYSENATE.GOV

January 25, 2013

Hon. Michael Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I am writing to you in regard to the ongoing school bus strike that is affecting thousands of public school children.

While I can certainly understand the need for the City to be fiscally prudent in the issuance of City contracts, I cannot understand why you have chosen to change the rules of negotiating those contracts.

Your administration has publicly stated that Employee Protection Provisions (EPP) are illegal, yet EPP's have been included in contracts between the City and the bus companies dating back to 1965.

Inclusion of an EPP ensures that only the most experienced, highly qualified workers are entrusted with the safety and well being of our children.

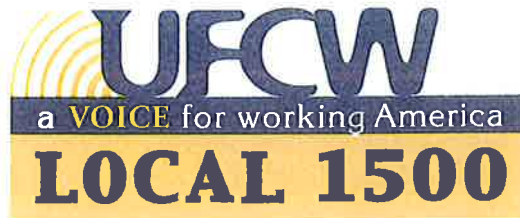
I strongly urge the City to continue to include EPP's in the new contracts so that negotiations can progress. The City needs to compromise on this issue so that an applicable solution can be found and the 150,000 students who are being caught in the middle can get back to their studies and their education.

It is time for you to demonstrate leadership, not demagoguery, and ensure worker protection, which is the right thing to do for both the workers and the students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Avella".

Tony Avella
Senator
11th Senatorial District



BRUCE W. BOTH, *President* • **ANTHONY G. SPEELMAN**, *Secretary / Treasurer* • **RHONDA NELSON**, *Recorder*

January 16, 2013

Honorable Michael Bloomberg
Mayor
City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I writing to express to you my profound disappointment in your administration and the actions it has taken resulting in the first school bus strike in New York City in over thirty years.

In response to a plan by New York City to bid out private bus contracts, the bus drivers and their aides represented by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181 have been forced to call a strike. This action became necessary only after your administration refused to protect hundreds of jobs in the bidding process. These are jobs that are done by experienced individuals that have the responsibility of making sure thousands of students are delivered to school and returned home safely.

There are also good paying jobs with fair benefits and the City should be working to protect middle class jobs rather than seeking ways to eliminate them in the name of cost savings. What economic policy that is based on eliminating middle class jobs and replacing them with low wage workers has ever proven to be successful? The answer is an unequivocal, never.

To be clear, it is your administration's actions during these negotiations that have led to this unfortunate strike, that is affecting hundreds of workers and thousands of children and their families.

I urge you to return to the bargaining table and reach a settlement that preserves these middle class jobs and ensures experienced workers are transporting our children to and from school each day.

Not everything is about the bottom line.

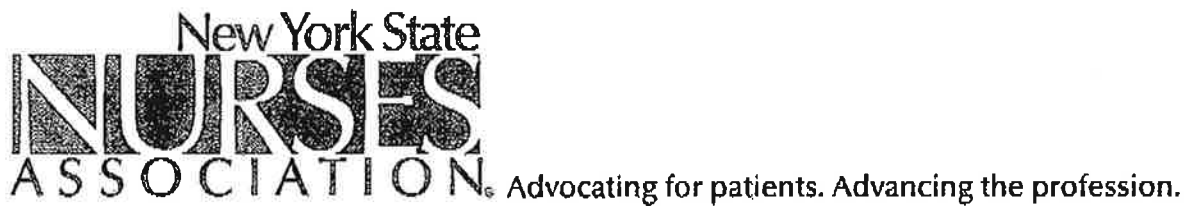
Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce W. Both".

Bruce W. Both
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rhonda Nelson".

cc: Mario Cilento, NYS AFL-CIO
Vinny Alvarez, NYC-CLC
Michael Cordiello, Local 1181-1061



January 17, 2013

To our union brothers and sisters at ATU Local 1181:

I am writing to let you know that New York's nurses stand in solidarity with your strike to ensure the safety of our children.

The New York State Nurses Association is the voice for hundreds of thousands of frontline nurses. We are New York's largest union and professional association for registered nurses.

We want experienced union bus drivers and matrons operating our city's school buses. The Employer Protection Provisions protect child safety for every NYC school bus passenger.

As nurses, we know how important it is to stand up when employers try to de-skill your job or replace skilled workers. When that happens to us, it puts patient safety at risk. When it happens to you, our children at risk.

And as nurses, we are deeply concerned that replacement workers without proper CPR training will be caring for our children.

Mayor Bloomberg forced this strike, and he can end it any time. He says he wants to cut costs. But you can't put a price tag on our children's safety.

Please let us know any actions we can take to show our support for your critical struggle. You can contact my Executive Organizer, Daniel Ray, at 631.338.5953. We stand with you.

In solidarity,

Jill Furillo, RN
Executive Director, New York State Nurses Association



USW Local 8751 - District 4
Boston School Bus Drivers' Union
25 Colgate Rd. • Roslindale, MA 02131
Telephone (617) 524-7073 Fax (617) 524-1691
www.BostonSchoolBusUnion.org

 73

January 17, 2013

Michael Cordiello
President/Business Agent
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181
101-49 Woodhaven Boulevard
Ozone Park, NY 11416

**RE: USW Local 8751 Stands In 100% Solidarity with our
Striking Sisters and Brothers of ATU Local 1181-11061!
Justice for Union Drivers = Safe, Professional, On-time Transportation
for New York City's Students!
Mayor Bloomberg: Stop Union Busting, Now!
Restore the Job and Contract Security, Now!**

Dear Brother Cordiello,

The 800 strong members of USW Local 8751 – who are employed by the multi-billion dollar British transnational First Student, Inc. and who transport more than 35,000 students daily for the Boston Public Schools – met tonight at our membership meeting, and voted unanimously and resoundingly to stand in 100% solidarity with our courageous sisters and brothers of ATU Local 1181 who are waging a historic strike on behalf of all working people and the safety of their most precious cargo.

We know that the 8,800 New York City school bus drivers and matrons have served the city, many for decades, providing regular and special education students with exemplary, safe, on-time transportation. We know you have advocated for the rights of the children in your daily work, as you have so splendidly done with the Parents to Improve Student Transportation.

How dare the billionaires's mayor choose to eliminate your decades-long job and contract security – which is the foundation for professional, consistent and safe student transportation – and offer the CEO's of private, profitable bus company's carte blanche to bid away and bust out your union! The government's arrogance in this case is a blatant signal to corporations in New York City and nationwide to push forward with their relentless campaign to impose drastic austerity measures on all of us, to turn back decades of hard fought union gains, and to increase their own profits at the expense of the health and well being of the drivers, matrons, mechanics and the children and parents we serve.

We join with tens of millions of hard-working people across the nation and the world who will do everything in our power to see that your struggle is victorious. We will not allow mayor Bloomberg and

Unity! Unidada!



Unité! Unidada!

his Wall Street backers to sacrifice the safe transportation of our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews on the altar of their financiers' greed!

In 1991, our members, too, had to build the fire barrels and set up picket lines, striking for five and ½ weeks to force Boston's mayor, School Department and their corporate sponsor's to sign agreements -- now part of all future management company bid specifications -- that whatever company or city agency becomes our employer, they need to take our members, our seniority, and all terms and conditions of our collective bargaining agreement. (see enclosed contract, p. 141-145) Prior to this agreement, the companies and the city disregarded and disrespected the bus drivers, giving more attention to the tires, equipment, and shareholders demands than the human beings driving and riding the buses. The experience of 26 years has clearly demonstrated that this has brought dignity and justice to the drivers, as well as continuity and security guarantees for the safe and professional transportation of the students.

Today we are sending our statement and resolution to the Greater Boston Labor Council, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, and the Worcester Central Labor Council to send to their affiliates and build support state wide. Please accept our modest contribution of \$500 to your Strike Defense Fund. Though distance makes it impossible for us to be on your picketlines this morning, know that we stand with you, walking the walk for "Justice for Drivers & Safety for Children."

Passed unanimously at the USW Local 8751 membership meeting, January 17, 2013

In Solidarity,

Steve Gillis
Vice President, USW Local 8751

Communities and Postal Workers United
804 Lucabaugh Mill Road
Westminster, Md 21157
cpwunited.com

Michael Cordiello, President
ATU 1181-1061
101-49 Woodhaven Boulevard
Ozone Park, NY 11416

Larry Hanley, President
ATU
5025 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

Brother Cordiello:

We are a national coalition of active and retired postal workers and community activists who have come together in an effort to save our beloved postal service from privatization. Replacing the U.S. Postal Service with a for-profit system would not only mean the end of the world's lowest postage rates, it would destroy the four unions representing over half a million sisters and brothers,.

We want to let our sisters and brothers of ATU 1181-1061 know that we back them 100% in their fight to protect their careers and keep providing safe and reliable service for the children of NYC.

We are both in the delivery business. ATU workers deliver our precious children to and from school, while we deliver the birthday cards, packages and medicine that our children look for and benefit from.

You are battling an intransigent Mayor who cares more for the lowest bidder by for-profit contractors than about our children's safety. Postal workers are in a fight not only against a Postmaster General who is a puppet of the corporate vultures, but also against those in Congress who want to privatize what has been a public service for the benefit of "We the People" since April 26, 1775.

We see this as one fight. "An Injury To One Is An Injury To All."
Your fight is our fight.

Solidarity Forever!
The Steering Committee

Portland: Jamie Partridge
Baltimore: Tom Dodge
Seattle: Dave Yao
San Francisco: David Welsh
Philadelphia: Joe Piette
Eugene: Nancy Forest
D.C.: Ken Lerch
Olympia: Clint Burelson

New York: Johnnie Stevens
Chicago: Melissa Rakestraw
LA: Kevin Cole
Tucson: Steve Valencia
Greensboro: Richard Koritz
Colorado Springs: Carol Federico
Staten Island: John Dennie
Cincinnati: Clyde Patterson