



The Strike Continues but...

Along with the International ATU, we met with Mayor Bloomberg on Wednesday and conveyed to him the importance of a fair and just resolution to this strike. We told him that we want our dedicated hard working members and the kids of New York City off the freezing streets and back onto the buses where they belong as soon as possible. We told him we never wanted this strike and we've tried every possible avenue, over many many months, to avoid this situation which hurts many people of modest means, our members and the public .

We told him how important the employee protection provisions have been to all workers in this industry and the children of our city for almost half a century by creating a skilled experienced dedicated professional work force to safely transport our kids while earning a living wage We urged the Mayor to help us find a way to resolve this dispute.

The Mayor suggested that the parties consider mediation and offered to try to get everyone to the table under the City's auspices.

We accepted the Mayor's offer and stand ready to meet immediately and continuously in an attempt to end this strike. But it takes all parties to negotiate a deal.

We have been informed by the bus company owners that they will not meet until Monday. This is very unfortunate. Their employees and our kids will be on the freezing streets of New York City while the owners take the weekend off, time that could have been spent trying to end this strike.

We urge the owners to put that goal ahead of any other agenda and join us at the table. We hope the Mayor will do so too.

With everyone in a room, talking candidly and in good faith, we believe that is the best way, and really the only way, for this strike to end.

Until that happens, the strike goes on.

Fraternally Yours

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