

PF
3/10/14
CCmts

My name is Jim Ramey. I live in ward 5 and I want to talk about how important the CCTA management crisis is to the people of Burlington and what I think you should do about it.

I've been working with the bus drivers in what we've unofficially called the Bus Driver Solidarity committee. Through this work I've heard nightmarish stories about 19th century management techniques that are trying to force impossible schedules onto the bus drivers; that are attempting to undermine and destroy the drivers democratically elected and desperately needed labor union; and that shows its lack of concern for road safety by trying to hire more part time drivers. If the drivers vote to reject the newest contract it will be the fault of the bad faith negotiations of CCTA management not the patient but steadfast drivers who have dealt with these antics for 9 months.

We in the solidarity committee know that you are not the body that is negotiating this contract but it's important that you not abdicate your responsibility which I would say most of you have shown a shocking willingness to do thus far. The residents of Burlington depend on the buses running to get to work or for their co-workers to get to work or for the people serving them in stores and restaurants to get to work. Businesses will also suffer. A transit stoppage always hits businesses hard and there are studies* that show a heavy increase in traffic delays when people are denied public transit. All told there's hardly anyone who a potential public transportation stoppage wouldn't impact negatively in each of the wards you represent. It is your responsibility to enter the fray.

Forcing the drivers to drive under the conditions that they now labor under is unsafe for everyone. The overall incompetence of CCTA's management has made every city bus a potential catastrophe that can be avoided by meeting the bus drivers needs. The Burlington City Council should support the community it represents and the bus drivers by demanding a fair contract from CCTA and recommend a thorough audit of management practices at CCTA, starting with Tim Bradshaw, to insure that intimidation and Gilded age labor practices end for good in this city and county.

*http://are.berkeley.edu/~mlanderson/pdf/Anderson_transit.pdf