



TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 1205

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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July 17, 2014

Greetings Brothers and Sisters working for Baumann Buses—

I am writing to you about two important matters.

First: Baumann Bus has informed Local 1205 that the company is not renewing its lease on the Bethpage facility and will be vacating that yard effective August 31, 2014. We have requested a face-to-face meeting with the company to discuss the effects of this planned yard closure, including our members' seniority rights, and in particular a member's right to transfer to other locations. Local 1205 will do everything we can to make sure the fairest resolution possible is reached.

And while we have many questions and concerns about the "summary of the Company's proposed plan" that Baumann sent us, we want you to know just what is in that summary. Here is what the Company has stated it proposes to do:

- "1) The Bethpage Pre-School routes will be transferred to Westbury
- 2) All Bethpage and Westbury 900 routes (non pre-school) will be transferred to Farmingdale
- 3) The planned transfer of Farmingdale work to Copiague will continue"

I'll keep you informed as things develop. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know. Again, we at Local 1205 want to make sure your interests are looked after and your rights are protected.

Now, the second important matter: At the moment, it appears the LIRR labor dispute may be near settlement. But it is still important to state the following: Unfortunately and typically, the press is not describing the issues and details of the dispute accurately; as usual, most of those news reports falsely present the workers as greedy bad guys. (Let's remember, news organizations are profit-based companies themselves, and see unions as interfering with their own desires to use workers any way they please.)

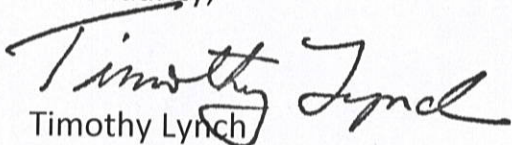
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The truth is, the LIRR workers are fighting for justice, are patriotic Americans in doing so, and their fellow citizens should support them—as a huge number do. In fact, the LIRR union employees are not only fighting for themselves: really, they are fighting for what all people deserve—respectful pay, safe working conditions, and decent benefits. Various bosses and their political allies are trying to turn worker against worker, citizen against citizen, encouraging people to feel that LIRR workers shouldn't get what they're asking for because some other workers do not have the wages and benefits they do. This way of thinking is not only completely illogical but is an attempt to undermine and rook *everyone* who works. All of us who work for a living should be backing up the LIRR workers, because a victory for them can drive up the standards for everyone—and can make clearer the power working people do have if we stand together in solidarity.

Also: no one should buy into the outrageous myth that if LIRR workers get more economic justice, inevitably passengers have to subsidize it. The fact is, the MTA is owned by the people: the State of New York. If our government officials were truly representing the citizens of New York State, not only would this dispute have been settled long ago on terms acceptable to the workers and all other tax payers, but the train fares would be lower and the services improved! The reason that didn't happen is: various government officials want to use government money—the citizens' money—to subsidize *private businesses* rather than provide services to the people of New York. Also, they prefer to give larger and larger tax breaks to corporations and the wealthy, instead of using the revenue that would have come from those lost taxes to make life (including transportation) better for everyone.

Part of the MTA's pathetic strike contingency plan is to try to transport thousands of people in school buses owned by private companies. (Good luck with that!) As I think I have made clear, Local 1205, which represents nearly 2,000 such school bus employees on Long Island, fully and unequivocally supports the legal rights of the LIRR workers to strike to achieve their goals. Many of our members have asked me if they have to take any new work assignments that Baumann may get over this summer or any summer. I've replied by pointing them to article 6 of our collective bargaining agreement, particularly paragraph 6.13 on pages 14 to 15, which spells out your rights and obligations regarding summer work. (Certainly, if any of you is assigned any work that you think could put you in harm's way—jeopardizing your health and safety in any way—it is your absolute right to refuse that work.)

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy Lynch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Timothy Lynch

President, Teamsters Local 1205