



AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 1091



IN THIS ISSUE

Little Known Black History Fact: Philadelphia's First Black-Owned Transit System

by Erica L. Taylor

Philadelphia is the new home of its first black owned bus company, S-T-S-C Transportation Services. The company was founded by black attorney, Jeremy Walker, and a few other investors. The bus line had its grand opening on June 27th. The new black-owned business comes after the U.S. Dept of Transportation shut down 26 bus operators last year for safety issues. Walker and the other owners of STSC plan to give extra safety training to their drivers to handle all types of situations. With 40 employees, the STSC Transportation Company hopes to bring a host of new jobs to the Philadelphia community.

Philadelphia's history of segregation in the transit system left a significant historical mark in the mid 1940's. **President Franklin Roosevelt** had to order the Army into the city to stop a sizable strike of thousands of white transit workers who protested against the federal order, which stated that the Philadelphia Transit Company (PTC) hire black trolley and bus drivers in 1944. With the president's new War Manpower Commission taking effect, eight African American employees were named trolley car drivers, which angered the white

workers. The city's transit system was left paralyzed on August 1, 1944.

The strike against hiring and promoting black transit workers effected the production of WWII materials, since Philadelphia was one of the biggest cities for production. The president sent 5,000 troops to enforce the new law and end the strike. The Major General on command stated that he would enlist striking workers into the Army if they didn't return to work. The **NAACP** worked with the white and black residents to end the strike peacefully. Within six days, the transit system was up and running again. The eight black employees were hired and a month after their first trolley run, more black operators were hired.

Decades later, as STSC Transportation, the new African-American owned transit company begins its services, the community welcomes ownership of a business that was once under heavy scrutiny for providing opportunity to blacks to simply operate the equipment.



AFLAC Drawing



Congratulations to TTMI Bus Operator, Rhonda Morris, the winner of the AFLAC 65" TV drawing!



What Is A Union?

A number of persons, states, etc., **joined** or associated.

Upcoming Events

<p>BOWLING SOCIAL</p> <p>ROUND 2</p> <p>(YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ONE)</p> <p><i>"To Be Announced"</i></p> <p>512-386-6485 (Union Hall)</p> <p>"Come socialize, even if you don't bowl"</p>	<p>SPARE TIME TEXAS</p> <p>1724 FM 685</p> <p>PFLUGERVILLE, TX 78660</p> 
<p>ATU FAMILY PICNIC</p> <p>T-Shirts are be available for purchase for \$20 each</p> <p><i>See your Union Steward or contact Union Hall for more information</i></p>	<p>BLAKE MANOR PARK</p> <p>18701 BLAKE MANOR RD</p> <p>MANOR, TX</p> <p><i>Saturday, September 22, 2018</i></p> 



President's June 2018 Report

-Contract Negotiations for the new Ride Right Thompson Lane will begin 8/01/18.

-LMR Reports for TTMI. MV-217

-2018 ATU Legislative Conference Report

-It is important to attend Charter Meetings so that you can get your information directly from the Union.

-ATU Local 1091 82nd Birthday and Picnic on September 22, 2018. Tickets are now on sale for \$5.00 per person (10 and older) Union TShirts also available for \$20.00 each.

-ATU International Latino Caucus will be held this year in San Antonio, Tx 9/13-9/16. If you would like to attend, please contact the Union office for information on how to register.

Lack of Restroom Access for Bus Drivers Needs OSHA Attention, House Member Says

By Bruce Rolfsen, Bloomberg BNA Occupational Safety & Health Reporter

May 18 — A top Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is pressing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to look at improving the availability of restrooms for bus drivers.

“As ranking member of the Highways and Transit Subcommittee, a recurring problem that has been brought to my attention and other members of Congress is the astonishing absence of access to restrooms or breaks for bus drivers,” Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) wrote in a May 15 letter to Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez.

“We believe that this widespread situation warrants the attention of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.” Norton added she expects a response within 30 days. A Labor Department spokesman told Bloomberg BNA that as of May 18, the department hadn't yet replied to Norton's request.

Serious Consequences

Larry Hanley, president of the Amalgamated Transit Union who started his career as a bus driver in New York City, told Bloomberg BNA May 18 that the availability of restrooms and scheduling of breaks is an ongoing problem.

Often drivers try to avoid the issue by restricting how much they drink. “As time goes on, this leads to serious physical impairments [and] illnesses,” Hanley said. And some drivers will wear diapers, Hanley said. One reason the problem continues is OSHA's lack of jurisdiction over many government-administered transit agencies.

Hanley pointed out that OSHA's regulations only cover private-sector workers unless a state allows OSHA to inspect state and local government agencies. State-administered workplace safety and health enforcement plans do cover state and local workers.

Beyond working with OSHA, Hanley said, the union is trying to get the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration involved in improving workplace conditions.

OSHA enforcement records don't indicate how often the agency has cited bus companies and other transit employers for not providing adequate restroom facilities for workers. The OSHA rule focused on restroom availability and issues such as providing water for hand-washing is 29 C.F.R. 1910.141.

Washington State Action

In Washington state during 2014, the state's Division of Occupational Safety and Health cited the government-operated King County Metro Transit using the state's sanitation standards—WAC 296-800-23020 and WAC 296-800-23025—that parallel federal requirements.

The state alleged in two citations issued Nov. 19 that Metro Transit didn't provide operators with “unrestricted access to bathroom facilities” when workers needed to relieve themselves because bathrooms at terminals weren't located close enough for drivers to walk to during their allotted break time. Additionally, at one terminal where a portable toilet was used for six years, there wasn't a sink with running water for workers to wash their hands. The state noted that operators had been disciplined for being behind schedule because of time spent using a bathroom or searching for a public restroom.

Metro Transit paid the proposed \$3,500 fine and agreed to correct the hazards, a state spokesman told Bloomberg BNA May 18.

*****PLEASE DO NOT!!!*****

Attend any Meetings or Hearings without a Union Steward! Please call the Union Hall 512-386-6485 to schedule a Steward to attend a Hearing or **re-schedule** a Hearing if a Steward is not available.

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Regular Charter Meetings
3rd Wednesday of every month
10:30am and 6:30pm
Union Hall
725 Airport Blvd

Union News Letter
Amalgamated Transit Union
Local 1091
725 Airport Blvd
Austin, Tx 78702-4103

Non Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Austin, Tx
Permit No. 1931

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TTMI - SICK

- MARSHALL, BRITA
- MORGAN, MICHAEL
- ODOM, SHIRLEY
- RAMOS, JOHN
- GODOY, MARIO
- KELLEY, JEFFREY
- GASTELUM, MICHAEL
- McLEOD, THOMAS
- MORRIS, RHONDA
- TOWNSEND, JAE
- SCALES, THEOPHILUS
- FLOWERS, DARRYL
- CHAPA SR, DAVID
- MEGETT, KATIE
- OLVERA, CARMELA

MV 217 – SICK

- PRIESTLY, L.

MV 269 – SICK

- HILL, MILTON
- CLARK, ERNEST

BEREAVEMENT

- DODD, DEBRA
- SORRELLS, DARRELL
- LUNA-MCGEE, YVONNE
- TRICE, RICKY
- ELLIOTT, LYSANDER
- ELLIOTT, SHARON
- MALDONADO, JOSEPHINE
- MALDONADO, JUAN
- JONES II, CHARLES
- SMITH, MARNETHIA
- WATKINS, SHEILA
- POLLEY, CURTIS
- WILLIAMS, B. (MV 217)
- TOLDEN-ISAAC, J. (MV 217)
- HUDGINS, Y. (MV 217)
- THOMPSON, CHRISHTAL (MV 269)

