

June 24, 2011

TO ALL BUS OPERATORS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank you for your united effort this week as you courageously and effectively translated thought into action. I know how much pressure you have been under to ignore the union's call to ensure that all of the safety communications systems on your buses are in operating order. And I understand the pressure to continue operating in a "business as usual" mode. For your unity, courage and steadfastness, I applaud you and hope you will stay the course because you deserve better treatment.

We undertook this action after four attacks on our operators, who were injured by riders as they performed their jobs, within the last two weeks. We have been persistent in requesting improvements in the safety measures and mechanisms adopted by WMATA for bus but our efforts have not resulted in the adoption of greater safety measures. We have offered suggestions, such as the "Optional Bus Safety Shields". In a report prepared to introduce the Optional Bus Safety Shield, we included detailed charts of threats, assaults and vandalism of our bus operators and buses. The Optional Bus Safety Shield is intended to protect bus operators and provide protection from attacks by riders and/or vandals on the street. We have scheduled a meeting with the Authority to review the report and discuss the proposal.

What you are doing now-ensuring that your vehicles have some safety mechanisms that are operating before you take them out of the garage- is imperative. If Safety is WMATA's #1 Priority, then your actions are in line with the Authority's goals. And since Safety is Local 689's #1 Priority, then we are doing what we have pledged to do-help keep you and the public safe.

We won't sit quietly by and watch the assaults on our bus operators and the consequent compromise of the public's safety. Now is the time to stand up and speak out. Your actions speak volumes. Your courage and commitment to this action uplifts every member of Local 689 and we stand with you, proud to call you brother and sister.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Jeter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Jeter