



USW Local 8751 - District 4
Boston School Bus Drivers' Union
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All Out! (Come immediately after work)

City Council Hearing to Investigate Veolia's Breach of Contract

Thursday, November 21st

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Boston City Hall (Ianella Council Chambers, 5th floor)

Illegal activity, corruption, violations of agreement, breach of contract, environmental degradation, supporting segregation and oppression – these things are nothing new for Veolia, and on Thursday, they'll get a first public hearing when the Boston City Council opens its investigation of the company's breach of contract when it locked out hundreds of school bus drivers on Oct. 8, 2013.

Less than 10 years ago, the head of the Paris based company (then known as Vivendi/U.S. Filter), went to jail and the company paid \$millions in fines following the exposure of sordid affairs of corruption, bribery, stock and price fixing, etc. around the world. Last week, St. Louis, Missouri dumped Veolia after residents waged a year-long campaign to stop the company from privatizing their water supply. Also last week, one of the nation's largest pension funds, TIAA-CREF, divested of Veolia stock in its socially responsible funds, under pressure from human rights advocates who point to Veolia's support for the oppression of Palestinian people.

And in cities from coast to coast – Oakland & San Francisco, Detroit, Buffalo, NYC, Charlotte & Raleigh, Salt Lake City, etc. – demonstrators have been targeting Veolia transportation, energy, water, and waste management offices, outraged over Veolia's union-busting and Unfair Labor Practice tactics in Boston, demanding reinstatement of the School Bus 5.

Who ordered the illegal lockout on Oct. 8th? Who is responsible for the corporation's decision to tear up the union contract and frame-up our leaders? In the words of City Councilor Charles Yancey's hearing order, being heard by City Councilor Felix G. Arroyo's Committee on Labor, Youth Affairs and Health:

“ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a public hearing to investigate the actions of Veolia Transportation, Boston Public Schools, and Mayor Thomas Menino in the illegal lockout of the school bus drivers as well as allegations included in the Unfair Labor Practice charges now being heard before the National Labor Relations Board to determine if Veolia Transportation is in breach of its vendor contract with the City of Boston.”



This is what a Lockout Looks Like!
Justin Maynard, Veolia Director of Safety & Training, locks out drivers at the Freeport yard on the morning of Oct. 8, 2013.

photo: Reuters news service

Unity! Unidada!



Unite! Unidade!

CHARLES C. YANCEY

Boston City Councillor

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release Thursday, November 7, 2013

COUNCILLOR YANCEY ORDERS CITY COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE VEOLIA TRANSPORTATION

Boston City Hall (November 7, 2013) – Boston City Councillor Charles C. Yancey is calling on the Boston City Council to investigate Veolia Transportation, a multibillion dollar conglomerate headquartered in France that is under contract to run Boston Public Schools' bus system.

Yancey introduced a hearing order on November 6, 2013 to investigate allegations of unfair labor practices by Veolia Transportation now being heard before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), and to determine if Veolia Transportation is in breach of its vendor contract with the City of Boston.

“It’s important that Veolia is living up to the collective bargaining agreement that was in place when it took over last summer,” he said.

Veolia Transportation, before assuming management of BPS' bus system on July 1, 2013, signed an agreement vowing to honor the union's current contract and to operate under all terms and conditions.

But the United Steelworkers Local 8751/ Boston School Bus Drivers Union, since Veolia's takeover last July, has filed 15 counts of unfair labor practices with the NLRB, as well as 75 individual and class action grievances against the company for serious violations, including payroll problems, changes in health care plans, changes in contract terms and conditions, and the denial of a grievance and arbitration process for workers.

Veolia's failure to meet with union representatives culminated in a school bus drivers' work stoppage on October 8, 2013. Yet, the company still refused to negotiate with union representatives and illegally blocked bus drivers from performing their jobs. The company also threatened to have bus drivers and Councillor Yancey, who was attempting to mediate the dispute, arrested.

Veolia Transportation has been accused by union leaders across the globe of anti-union actions and unfair labor practices. Union leaders in New York, Arizona, Florida, Nevada, and California, as well as in France, Britain, Finland, Sweden, and Norway, have protested Veolia Transportation's anti-union activities.

The company manages over 200 transportation contracts for cities, transit authorities and airports, and is the largest private sector operator of multiple modes of transit in North America, and is a subsidiary of Veolia Environnement, which consists of water, waste, and energy divisions operating around the world.

Councillor Yancey noted that Boston's school bus drivers have a decades-long and proud record of providing safe, professional, and on-time service to the students and parents of Boston. “The Boston City Council has a responsibility to make sure that all companies under contract with the City of Boston adhere to our city's collective bargaining agreements. We also have to make sure that Veolia Transportation is treating our school bus drivers fairly,” he said.



City Councillor Yancey speaks to the press after being thrown out of Veolia's office by HR Director Shaw, who called the police on the 30-year city representative on the morning of October 8, 2013. Councillor Yancey had gone to Veolia with a delegation of drivers to request a meeting with Veolia management. Instead, the company had police push Councillor Yancey and the drivers out of the yard, and lock the gates behind them.
photo: USW 8751

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