

**Team Solidarity Says:**

# **BLACK LIVES MATTER**

## **Defend school desegregation in Boston!**

*An appeal from fired members of United Steel Workers Local 8751, the Boston School Bus Drivers Union*



It should come as no surprise that Boston's 1% is trying to kill a union that has always walked the walk in the fight against racism.

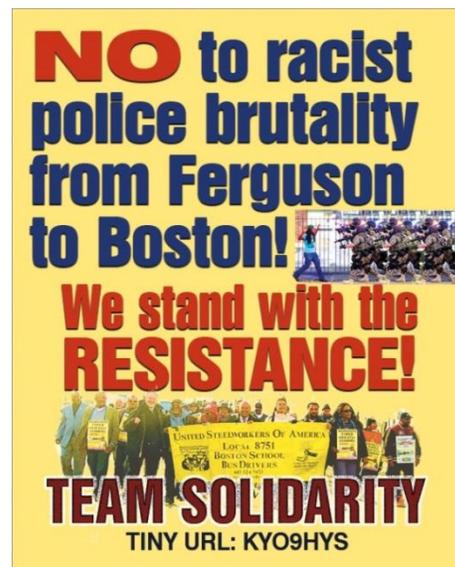
At their last membership meeting, the fighting rank-and-file of the Boston School Bus Driver's Union voted unanimously to formally endorse Boston Black Lives Matter and donate \$1,000.

The school bus drivers know intimately how important this inspiring new struggle is. Our union, United Steel Workers Local 8751, was born in the struggle to defend school integration. Forty years ago, white racist mobs attacked Black, Latina/o and Asian children trying to go to school. While school bus drivers had to wear helmets, cops protected bigots stoning schoolchildren of color.



**BOSTON 1974**

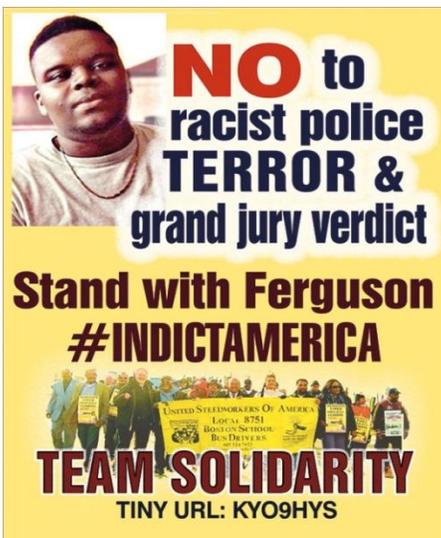
Boston's corporate elite wants to smash our union as an essential step in their ongoing school re-segregation process to return to racist "neighborhood" schools. Local 8751 has fought – and continues to fight -- this process at every step, standing with the community to oppose the various "zone plans" and blocking the plan to push sixth and seventh graders off school buses and onto the subway.



**TEAM SOLIDARITY PLACARD**

In 2012, the school bus drivers united with the community and other unions to prevent the closure of Grove Hall Post Office. On the 50th anniversary of Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat, the drivers helped form a coalition that organized school walkouts demanding a national holiday in her honor. It's for these fightback activities that the Boston city establishment has brought in a union-busting outfit called Transdev, which is part of the worldwide Veolia corporate empire.

Veolia rips off people in Africa, India and Latin America with privatized water systems. Palestinians are forbidden to ride Veolia's segregated buses in Israel.



TEAM SOLIDARITY PLACARD

Veolia's management locked out our union members on Oct. 8, 2013, creating havoc for Boston's schoolchildren. These bosses then turned around and called their lockout a strike and blamed our union for it. The *Boston Globe*, *Herald* and the rest of the big business mouthpieces helped spread this big lie.

As a result, our union's Recording Secretary and Charleston Chief Steward Andre Francois; Vice-President Steven Gillis; union Grievance Chair and founder Stevan Kirschbaum; and three-term former President Gary Murchison were fired. They and their families have exhausted unemployment benefits. Veolia is also trying to frame Kirschbaum on phony felony charges. His trial date is Feb. 2, 2015.

Members of Local 8751 have been in the forefront of every progressive struggle in Boston. Our union's Team Solidarity has joined marches demanding justice for Michael Brown, Eric Garner and all other victims of police terror.

Our membership is a rainbow, with 98% of the members belonging to Boston's Haitian, Cape Verdean, African American, Latina/o and Asian communities. We're proud to have one of the first union contract clauses protecting LGBTQ workers.

Among those who've come out for Local 8751 are City Councilor Charles Yancey; Mel King; Chuck Turner; Black Educators Alliance of Massachusetts (BEAM); the Coalition for Equal Quality Education; Charles Clemons, founder of TOUCH 106.1; Myles Calvey of IBEW Local 2222; the Greater Boston Labor Council and the Massachusetts AFL-CIO.

We need your support, too. Transdev and Veolia are dragging their feet in union negotiations and trying to provoke a strike – by refusing to rehire the four and trying to take back what our members have gained for themselves and their families over 40 years of struggle.

Join the struggle against racism in education and for union rights in Boston. Demand that Transdev/Veolia stop its union busting and rehire Steve Gillis, Andre Francois, Steve Kirschbaum and Gary Murchison. Call Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley at 617-619-4000 (fax 617-619-4210) to drop the phony charges against Steve Kirschbaum.

**ON FACEBOOK: Team Solidarity – the Voice of United School Bus Union Workers**

**Tiny URL: KYO9HYS**

**[bostonschoolbus5.org](http://bostonschoolbus5.org)**

