



TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION NO. 1205

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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The Baumann Contract Vote: Union Democracy in Action

The Teamsters Local 1205 bus workers at Baumann/Acme Buses will be voting on Saturday, October 17, on whether to accept or reject the company's so-called "Last, Best and Final Offer." The complex details of that settlement offer are quite different from the deceptive, decorated version that Baumann's lawyer has described in the October 14th communication sent to the press and others. The vote will be democratic, and the decision will be made by the workers themselves. A Federal Mediator will be present, as will a representative of the Long Island Federation of Labor.

Baumann's latest behavior, twisting the facts and viciously bad-mouthing the union, is in keeping with a long and ugly tradition. Charles Dickens described something like it in 1854. The tradition is: If your employees object to the way they're paid and treated, and you can't bully them into backing down and doing what you want—blame the union. Further, when a union tries to get some justice for the workers, say that the union is irrational and that what it really wants is to put the company out of business.

Baumann and his lawyer, in the October 14 document they sent to the press and others, announce what THEY have decided the union's President will say—and then they vilify him for it. The fact is, they do not know what he—and the elected 21-member rank-and-file Negotiating Committee—will say. The attempt to turn this into some kind of personal contest is not only crazy, but monumentally disrespectful of the Baumann workers and of what a union is.

Teamsters Local 1205 is proud of the Baumann/Acme bus workers, who have been demanding what every human being deserves: respectful wages and working conditions. And we are proud of our commitment to the well-being, not only of our own members, but of the families and working people of Long Island.