

Teamsters Fighting Hard On Our Behalf



Thursday, August 20, 2009

Our campaign to form a union is off to a roaring start! On Monday, Aug, 17th, we hosted a news conference with the Teamsters, elected officials and other labor leaders who notified Baumann/Acme Bus Co. that we are determined to organize!

Before our news conference, we hand delivered a letter from Roger Clayman, Executive Director of the Long Island Federation of Labor, to the yard managers of each of the nine Baumann Bus/Acme Bus yards. We also delivered the letter to the company's headquarters.

The letter showed how much union support we have for our campaign on Long Island, with 250,000 union members behind us. The letter also asks that the company respect our right to form a union.

We then held a news conference in front of the Bohemia/Commack yard asking the company to respect workers' rights and to stop committing unfair labor practices. Three drivers spoke at the news conference and spoke about how we need a union to gain a better life for ourselves and our families. The workers talked about paychecks being shorted, health benefit concerns and the many other issues that have led us to organize our union.

Timothy Lynch, President of Teamsters Local 1205, said Baumann/ACME drivers want union representation so they can obtain better wages, affordable medical benefits and gain better workplace conditions. Kim Keller, from the Teamsters headquarters in Washington, DC, told us that the entire Teamsters union, with 1.4 million members, would stand with us in our campaign.

Our campaign has gotten a lot of support, including from Gov. David Paterson. The governor has sent a letter to the company saying the freedom to form and join unions is a fundamental human right protected by our state's and nation's labor laws. In addition, Long Island members of Congress have also signed a letter supporting our campaign.

This is a great start to our campaign! Let's keep it rolling along!