



November 4, 2008

Mr. Joneth Wyatt
President
Amalgamated Transit Union
725 Airport Blvd.
Austin, TX 78702

Dear Mr. Wyatt:

I am in receipt of your letter dated November 4, 2008. I appreciate the efforts that Council Member Mike Martinez's proposal has undertaken to facilitate a contract settlement. However, I truly believe that the negotiation process should be kept between the negotiating committee members for ATU and StarTran while keeping Commissioner Clint Hart, Federal Mediator, involved in the process as well.

During this negotiation process, we have communicated to you that there is an \$8.2 million allocation to this proposal, and we would be willing to divide this up accordingly. Both sides agreed to a four-year contract and with this goal in mind we calculated the wage increases. The concern with what is currently being proposed by an independent party is that this spends the entire allocation in two years as opposed to four years. This leaves our employees with zero increases for the third and fourth years. Further, it does not surprise me that you support this current proposal regarding retroactive pay since this was the Union's original proposal.

However, rather than communicating these concerns via correspondence, I believe it would be in the best interest for both sides to have this dialogue across the table on Friday. It is important for both sides to realize there is a responsibility to remain competitive with other contractors; in an effort, to preserve jobs and offer employment stability. Further, it would be in the best interest of our employees, families and the community to "call off" the work stoppage; so, that we can address the contract settlement issues. I find that your desire to call for a work stoppage puzzling when we have mutually agreed to meet on Friday.

I ask that you reconsider pursuing this work stoppage; so, we can remain focused on contract settlement rather than the logistics of a strike. Please make me aware of your decision by 5:00 pm today.

Sincerely,

Terry Garcia Crews
General Manager

cc:
ATU International President, Warren George
Austin City Council
Capital Metropolitan Transit Board of Directors
ATU Local 1091 Membership
Senator Kirk Watson
Representative Dawna Dukes