

USA: TU support to the 'Occupy Wall Street' Protest Movement

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USW Supports the 'Occupy Wall Street' Protest Movement

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 30, 2011 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ — Leo W. Gerard, International President of the United Steelworkers (USW), North America's largest industrial union with 1.2 million active and retired members, today issued the following statement in support of the Occupy Wall Street protest movement:

"The United Steelworkers (USW) union stands in solidarity with and strongly supports Occupy Wall Street. The brave men and women, many of them young people without jobs, who have been demonstrating around-the-clock for nearly two weeks in New York City are speaking out for the many in our world. We are fed up with the corporate greed, corruption and arrogance that have inflicted pain on far too many for far too long.

Our union has been standing up and fighting these captains of finance who promote Wall Street over Main Street. We know firsthand the devastation caused by a global economy where workers, their families, the environment and our futures are sacrificed so that a privileged few can make more money on everyone's labor but their own.

Wall Street and its counterparts on Bay Street (Toronto), The City (London) and across the world tanked our economy in 2008. They caused a crisis that we're still suffering from - record job losses, home foreclosures, cuts to schools, public services, police, fire and so much more. They've gambled with our pension funds and our futures for far too long.

They should have gone to jail. Instead, they got bailed out, while we got left out. And now they want us to go down the same path.

The Occupy Wall Street movement represents what most Americans believe: Enough is enough! It's time to hold those who caused our economic crisis accountable, to ensure they don't get away with it again, and to demand that everyone pay their fair share. It's time to stand and fight for the creation of real wealth by focusing on making real things and creating family- and community-supporting jobs.

The USW is proud to join with the brothers and sisters of the Occupy Wall Street movement as we continue this important fight for a more just economy and a brighter tomorrow."

The United Steelworkers is the largest industrial union in North America and has 850,000 members

in the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean. It represents workers employed in metals, rubber, chemicals, paper, oil refining, atomic energy, airline, health care, public sector and the service sector. For more info: www.usw.org.

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SOURCE United Steelworkers (USW):

http://www.usw.org/media_center/releases_advisories?id=0438

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<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/usw-supports-the-occupy-wall-street-protest-movement-2011-09-30>

TWU blasts city for putting handcuffed Occupy Wall Street protesters on buses

BY PETE DONOHUE, EMILY SHER AND HELEN KENNEDY
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Monday, October 3rd 2011, 4:00 AM

The Transport Workers Union will go to court Monday to try to stop the city from forcing bus drivers to transport Wall Street protesters arrested by the NYPD, the Daily News has learned.

The union, whose leaders voted last week to support the protesters, said police brass commandeered three MTA buses to transport many of the 700 demonstrators arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday.

Union President John Samuelson called ordering bus drivers to drive prisoners “a blatant act of political retaliation.”

Police brass had no immediate comment on Samuelson’s comments Sunday night.

“TWU Local 100 supports the protesters on Wall Street and takes great offense that the mayor and NYPD have ordered operators to transport citizens who were exercising their constitutional right to protest - and shouldn’t have been arrested in the first place,” Samuelson said Sunday night.

At least five empty buses were commandeered from terminal points on both sides of the bridge, Samuelson said.

In some cases, MTA supervisors ordered drivers to follow the directive.

“The MTA has a long history of cooperating with the NYPD and other law enforcement agencies when they require vehicles to perform their duties,” said Jeremy Soffin, MTA spokesman.

DAILY NEWS EDITOR GIVES FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT OF PROTEST ON BROOKLYN BRIDGE

But that violates the contract between Local 100 and the MTA, Samuelson said.

"Our mission is to provide transit service to the riding public, not transport people who were arrested," he said.

The mass roundup on the bridge did little to stifle the protesters: Hundreds went right back to the rally after getting sprung.

"Just because we're being arrested, we're not being silenced," said Robert Grodt, 24.

"You go to Italy, you eat gelato. You go to a protest, you expect to be arrested," said Daniel Levine, 22, a Baruch College journalism student.

NYPD spokesman Paul Browne said 700 people received summonses and eight were held - three for outstanding warrants and five for not providing ID.

He did not immediately comment on the TWU seeking an injunction.

The nebulous protest against corporate greed, income inequality and tax breaks for fat cats enters its third week with growing crowds, a higher media profile and a big union march set for Wednesday.

Cops and protesters argued over whether demonstrators Saturday defied orders to stay on the bridge's pedestrian walkway or were lured into a trap by cops who said they could use the roadway.

The NYPD released a video showing a captain with a bullhorn telling a teeming throng, "I'm ordering you to leave this roadway now. If you do so voluntarily, no charges will be placed against you."

The crowd responded with chants of "Take Our Bridge" and linked arms as protesters on the walkway cheered them.

The Brooklyn-bound lanes of the bridge were closed for nearly three hours as cops rounded up protesters.

"The protestors were warned: Stay off the roadway," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

Protester videos showed a column of marchers entering the car lanes with officers walking calmly at their head.

"The cops led us onto that street," said Casey O'Neill, 34, who quit his computer job in California to join the protest.

With Barry Paddock

Read more:

http://www.nydailynews.com/ny_local/2011/10/03/2011-10-03_twu_blasts_city.html#ixzz1ZqofEO81
