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BULLETIN

A.T.U. National Local 1700

Brother's and Sister's,

On the afternoon of Thursday October 18th in Dallas, I will be speaking at a press conference joined by the ACLU, Congressman Joaquin Castro and others, demanding that Greyhound address widespread concerns about Border Patrol immigration enforcement operations on our buses. These boarding's are reported to cause racial profiling – some we've all seen happen – when passengers of color in particular are singled out for questioning, or worse, based on how they look and speak.

There is now a big public campaign to convince Greyhound management to send an official letter to the Department of Homeland Security saying that Greyhound will not consent to agents boarding company buses without probable cause or a warrant, the Fourth Amendment's legal standard for domestic routes that don't cross formal check points. Greyhound has so far not acted to protect passengers in this way, despite saying the company would do "everything legally possible" to improve the situation. The company's statements argue in part: "Our drivers face arrest and fines for obstructing these (Border Patrol) agents and we would not want to put their safety, or the safety of our passengers at risk by attempting to stop a federal agent from conducting checks."

At the press conference I will correct the idea that Greyhound is defending our interests and stop management from speaking for us. Nothing in the policy change demanded by this campaign would endanger driver safety, because even after Greyhound sends DHS a letter it will never become the drivers' role to prevent law enforcement from boarding if they continue. That would be a dispute for the courts, not any of us.

I will also reject any idea that our stand is either about criticizing law enforcement or making a political point. We support constitutional actions by police and DHS personnel focused on criminal activity; any such safety issues on buses will still be addressed when officers have enough specific details to act. What we oppose are immigration sweeps based on dragnet enforcement, that targets bus passengers as a group and ends up with immigrant families – our customers – separated for deportation. I plan to say that, "for us this is about passengers, not politics." Greyhound management must act to stand up for constitutional law enforcement that respects all of our customers' right to travel with dignity."

I'm glad that some of our members will be attending the press conference with me in Dallas and encourage you to follow coverage of the event. I'll be happy to answer any questions that you may have.

In Solidarity,

Karen Miller
President