

# Speak Out Now at BART (9/16/2024)

## Class War!

How many years has it been since workers at BART got a raise that would keep up with inflation, much-less catch up with all that has been lost over all those years? This new 2%+2%+2%+2% over two years and calling it an 8% raise isn't fooling anyone. We don't need to look at the official inflation figures to know that we are falling behind.

And BART workers aren't alone. Workers across the country have taken a huge hit – before, during and after the pandemic. Mechanics at Boeing recently declared an end to this game. Workers demanded a 40% wage increase over the life of the 4-year contract. Boeing said 25%. The workers voted and told them to put it where the sun doesn't shine and they are out.

Other workers, like flight attendants have been organizing over the past years, around working conditions, work rules and wages and benefits. Recently flight attendants at Alaska Airlines rejected a wage increase of around 24% immediately plus some back pay and about a 32% increase over the next three years. But it's never just about the money, there are also changes to working conditions needed.

BART workers are not alone. There's a war on, a class war. And many workers are saying "enough is enough"! Workers in workplaces across the county have gone on strike and spoken for themselves, with widespread support. We are living in a time of real possibilities

## ***Speak Out Now Summer BBQ***

***Sunday, September 22***

***Noon to 4:30 pm***

***in San Leandro***

***Good food, kids area with games,  
sports, political discussions and more***

***An afternoon with people you know and  
meet people you would like to know***

***GET YOUR TICKETS FROM YOUR  
SPEAK OUT PERSON – In advance we  
don't want to run out of food***

***Tickets \$5, Kids under 10 free***

## Same Soup New Bowl

The "new" TA is on the table and it looks familiar. It's not exactly the same. They had to make a change to put it out there again. But it wasn't about a real wage increase or funding for retiree medical.

The whole process reflects BART Management's attitude. The financial mess they swim in means they always cry broke and the solution falls on taking from those who make the system run.

Is it true that the money isn't there? Companies that sell shares on the stock market have to report their profits. But what about BART, a public service? BART is the Bay Area's land baron, with properties and developments around the Bay. No money? Open the books - all the books!

Instead of a real offer, they come up with this "new offer", wrapped in threats – cuts in funding of retiree medical, no real wage increases and future layoffs. And what are the guarantees held out, other than a series of 2% wage increases? Everything else remains in BART's hands. This new proposal feels like that old expression – "someone is running the okey doke".

## ***Feels Like A***



## ***Shell Game***

### **Double Standard?**

When San Francisco 49er Ricky Pearsall was shot by a young guy trying to take his Rolex, the papers were full of concern. It is unusual for one person to try to rob a 6 foot, 1 inch, 190 pound professional athlete in broad daylight in downtown SF.

But attacks on frontline workers are not unusual. Station Agents, System Service Workers and even Train Operators face random and unprovoked attacks and how many even own a Rolex?

Pearsall's young attacker was shot in the scuffle. But, if the BART employee defends him or herself from an attacker, it is a very different matter. There's no support for the BART worker by Management. In fact the investigation often targets the worker.