**Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 5/23/2022**

**Feeling Appreciated?**

After months and months and months of speaking out at AC Board meetings and waiting for hazard pay it now seems to be coming our way in the form of “appreciation pay.” About time! Roughly $5.4 million has been doled out to all of ATU workers who put their bodies on the front lines during all of the stresses of the pandemic.

But when we actually look at the checks and see that close to half of the money was taken out in taxes we gotta ask, WTF? On top of this, for all of the time that AC Transit was sitting on this money in their bank accounts, who were the ones who were collecting interest during that time? Not us!

Feeling appreciated yet?

**Solving The Mystery Of The Missing Operators**

AC Transit recently put out a survey to its workers to find out the things the people loved the most about working at AC. Behind this survey is the question - why can't AC recruit and retain enough operators to keep the system functional? Is it really a mystery to anyone?

Could it have something to do with the fact that the pay is not competitive with other driving jobs? Could it have something to do with all of the stresses that people have to manage when dealing with a public that is sometimes hostile? Could it have something to do with not enough runtime on the schedules to ensure that people have real breaks? This mystery is not that hard to solve.

**Watch Out for the Cracks**

For the workers at D6 Hayward yard, parking your car has changed. If you weren't in the know, the D6 parking structure has been closed, condemned due to being in an unsafe / unstable condition. A person noticed some cracks in the structure and reported it, and when it was inspected, the structure ended up getting closed.

Similar to all things in life, if we don’t pay close attention, sometimes things will crack, and these cracks can become devastating, and sometimes cause things to crumble. It can start with little things, like holding your pee in too long and getting Urinary Tract Infections or possible kidney disease. Spending too much time on a hot bus, to the point you get heat stroke, and become very sensitive to heat. Not getting enough movement or exercise due to a sedentary job, and having health issues start to pop up. The list could go on and on, but if we realize where things start to crack, we can prevent them. Shouldn’t we all look out for each other and prevent the cracking in the first place?

---

Pass This Newsletter On To A Friend At Work!