

# *Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 7/15/2024*

## **Bad A/C at AC Transit**

The heatwave that we have been experiencing for the past few weeks has made it unbearable to be outside. For those of us that are out and about on the buses, the Air Conditioning might have been on, but didn't feel cold enough, particularly around the driver's seat in some of the buses. It's no wonder that things are getting run down, some of the buses that we drive are out on the road close to 24 hours a day! The buses are being worked to the bone and run down to the ground, a lot like most of us.

There never seems like enough time to rest and recuperate our bodies or repair and recover the buses. Not enough mechanics, like drivers, to fill the work that piles up and needs to be done. The breakdown of the buses and the breakdown of our bodies, both being expected to do more and more. Are we designed to do so much? The toll it takes seems to say a big NO!

## **Get Beat Up Or Get Written Up?**

It is getting rough out there on a lot of these streets. Many of us have had issues with passengers who come at us aggressively and even try to start a fight. Many of these people are drunk or on hard drugs. When these situations arise, we supposedly are allowed to defend ourselves, but only after we take the first hit, otherwise we are considered the aggressor. Where in the job description does it say that we are supposed to be someone's punching bag?

## **Rise Up!**

The government introduces policies that increase the cost of living, everything from fuel to food. People are furious! Hundreds of thousands of people mobilize themselves in the streets, block highways and storm the congress building while the politicians are discussing the bill, and set part of the building on fire. A couple days later, the government is forced to backtrack and repeal the bill. Even if the victory is short-lived and temporary, it is still a victory.

In Kenya, this is what has been happening where working people, the poor and the youth have been in a deadly struggle against policies that further impoverish them and enrich the elite. Their struggle is our struggle! We have a lot to learn from their courage to stand up!

## **What A Surprise...**

The district brought in consultants to survey the employees to tell them that many employees feel that the district has low accountability and is not inclusive. Surprise, surprise... There is a perception that the bus operator shortage is a direct result of poor working conditions, and safety concerns and that the District has a lack of trust.

Why do they need to bring in consultants to tell them these things when they could just ask the workers directly?

## **Breaking News!**

You hear the latest news? It seems like every time we look up, there's something crazy happening in society and it can be hard to keep up. Many of us probably would like to have a little peace and a sense of normalcy. Many of us have enough struggles in our lives, why add one more thing by keeping up with the breaking news?

What if the issues that we faced were considered breaking news? What if the extremely high housing costs were treated as breaking news? What if the lack of time to spend with our loved ones or attend our kid's baseball game was considered breaking news? Why shouldn't our lives be taken as seriously as the spectacle on the TV?

We are tired of living through "historic times." At some point, we need to stand up for ourselves and our communities. We can "make history!"

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### **A SPEAK OUT NOW TOWNHALL**

## **FORCED MIGRATION CRISIS AT THE BORDER**

**7/20  
4PM**



We cannot allow the separation, imprisonment, and deportation of migrant families to be carried out in our name.

**Justin Akers Chacón** a Chicano educator, author, and socialist activist will discuss the current crisis at the border.

**SOUTH BERKELEY SENIOR CENTER  
2939 ELLIS ST, BERKELEY**

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ZOOM: [TINYURL.COM/SON-TH](https://tinyurl.com/son-th)



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