

For Immediate Release: Monday, March 28, 2011

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RALLY FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL WORKERS: FROM MEMPHIS TO MADISON AND BEYOND

Workers, their supporters and friends will gather, hold a peaceful procession and then rally in response to the attacks on workers' rights around the country on April 4, the 43rd anniversary of the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, announced Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056 President/ Business Agent I. Daneek Miller. Local 1056 organized the observance, which includes a gathering of participants beginning at 4:30 p.m. outside the Jamaica Bus Terminal across Merrick Boulevard from the Queens Borough Public Library main branch for peaceful procession at 5:15 p.m. to the Grace Episcopal Church on Jamaica Avenue and Parsons Boulevard for a 6:30 p.m. rally followed by a concluding sermon in memory of Dr. King. ATU 1056 represents drivers and mechanics who work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division. Other sponsors (in formation) include Jamaica Branch NAACP, AFL-CIO, SIEU 32BJ, 1199 SEIU, CSEA, ATU Locals 726, 1179, 1181, TWU 100, Teamsters, COBRA, Council Members Leroy Comrie, James Sanders & Ruben Wills, Assemblyman David Weprin and Southeast Queens Young Democrats.

“Dr. King was killed while in Memphis to support striking black sanitation workers who were fighting to form a union to bargain for a better life,” stated Mr. Miller. “They were demanding their dream of dignity, respect, and a pathway to the middle class. Local 1056 relates this sacrifice to the events unfolding in Wisconsin and other states around the country. Today we find the same rights and freedoms Dr. King fought for in 1968 under attack in Madison and other state capitols. After unions helped build the American middle class we find its very existence threatened by a corporate and political assault on the fundamental belief that if you work hard in this country, you deserve a good job with a decent wage, affordable health care and dignity in retirement. On April 4 we come together with community members, our elected leaders, workers and our brother and sisters in labor to rally for the rights of ALL workers and march for the middle class as we remember Dr. King.

WHAT: Rally for the rights of all workers, from Memphis to Madison and beyond

WHO: Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056, Jamaica Branch NAACP, AFL-CIO, SIEU 32BJ, 1199 SEIU, CSEA, ATU Locals 726, 1179, 1181, TWU 100, Teamsters, COBRA, Council Members Leroy Comrie, James Sanders & Ruben Wills, Assemblyman David Weprin and Southeast Queens Young Democrats [in formation]

WHEN: Monday, April 4, 2011 at 4:30 p.m. (Gathering; 5:15 p.m. March; 6:30 p.m. Rally)

WHERE: Jamaica Bus Terminal, Merrick Blvd. & 89th Avenue (across from the Queens Public Library), marching to 89th Ave; to Parsons Blvd. to Grace Episcopal Church (155-15 Jamaica Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432)



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