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ATU Marches on Wall Street for Economic Justice

Members of Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1056 joined with their brothers and sisters in organized labor to support the grass roots demonstrators on Wall Street today (Wednesday, October 5, 2011). After meeting at 4:30 p.m. at Duane and Center Streets between Federal Plaza (Foley Square) and the courthouses, ATU members, other labor activists and community and faith-based grassroots activists, will march to Wall Street/ Zuccotti Park. In conjunction with ATU 1056's participation, I. Daneek Miller, President and Business Agent of ATU Local 1056, represents drivers and mechanics who work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division, issued the following statement:

“There's important symbolism that more and more Americans grasp each day. Too many of those ultra rich folks just fail to grasp that they need us to be wealthy. On us they depend to buy their goods and to keep the economy going. Without us folks here in the street, forget about Wall Street. We the people, the workers, white, black, brown and yellow, Progressives and even Tea Partiers – who perhaps need to be better educated on the issues, we the people keep the rich so wealthy. It's time they step up to the plate like their colleague Mr. Buffet and stop using their resources to avoid paying their fair share. Their objections and the misguided mindset of those who buy in to their ill-thinking leads to bad policies that hurt America, its economy and its people. We challenge that mindset; we challenge those policies. If everyone pitches in – including the wealthy for a change, we can realize the resources we need to get America back on track, including a much needed investment in public transportation which time and time again helps drive economic growth.”

“Without a strong and vibrant transit system, much of the economic growth over past decades cannot be sustained. And, as many know, MTA management with the concurrence of the state and the city eliminated core services in the boroughs. Less than eight million dollars would restore the cuts to the bus service. For example, Queens primarily depends on more on buses than subway and rail to move about.

“So while private finance forced the recent and past meltdowns, the conservatives and their media and elected official allies – doing the bidding of the wealthy elites – seek to shift the burden for financing the relief from that wealth sector to the public employee whose seamless contributions remain at the forefront of our civil society, and by burdening everyone with less

public services that they pay even more for. In solidarity with this grassroots movement “occupying” Wall Street, we ask Americans to join our movement and the wealthy to re-think their thoughtlessness – after all they have much more to lose!”



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