

**MTA BOARD SECRETARY'S OFFICE****FAX COVER SHEET**

Date: 10/22/03

TO: MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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cc: CEO; DCEO**FROM: BOARD SECRETARY'S OFFICE***see attached*

are transmitting 2 page(s). Please call (213) 922-4600 if you do not receive the entire fax. Our fax Number is (213) 922-4594.

**For Immediate Release
October 21, 2003**

**Contact:
Don Owens, (Cell) 202-439-7427**

TEAMSTERS MOURN DEATH OF BUS DRIVER DURING FIRST TRANSIT STRIKE

Accident Occurs After Leaving Picket Duty, Later Dies At Local Hospital

(Los Angeles, CA) – More than 250 striking bus drivers who live in South Los Angeles and drive MTA routes for First Transit, Inc. lost a comrade, friend and co-worker today when one of their fellow picketers was struck and killed in an auto accident in Compton, California.

"On behalf of every member of Local 572, our staff and the entire membership of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, we would like to extend our most heartfelt condolences to the family of our departed brother Lynum Hamilton," said Rick Middleton, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 572. "Brother Hamilton gave eight years of his life to First Transit and believed strongly in trade unionism and the fundamental right to affordable health care. We will fight on in his memory."

The striking Teamster drivers, who consist mainly of African-American and Latino community members, went on strike on October 15 over substandard wages and the need for proper health benefit contributions. MTA contractor First Transit has, thus far, refused to provide an adequate health plan resulting in a strike which has shut down bus service in Palos Verdes, Gardena and Compton, California.

Mr. Hamilton was on strike to improve health care benefits and wages for the 250 drivers who do much of the same work and drive the same routes as MTA drivers. However, First Transit drivers earn, in many cases, \$4 less in hourly pay and are subjected to a minimal voluntary health care plan.

"Lynum Hamilton's hard work and dedication to his family, his co-workers and his union will never be forgotten," Middleton said. "He believed in unity among his co-workers, pride in his job and respect of all people. He will be missed by this local, his community and his co-workers dearly."

Teamsters Local 572 represents more than 11,500 workers throughout Southern California.