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Orange County Coach Operators Overwhelmingly Vote to Strike

1,100 Teamsters Prepared to Walk the Line for a Fair Contract

ORANGE, Calif., April 25 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- More than 1,100 coach operators sent their employer, Orange County Transportation Authority, a clear message this week, overwhelmingly voting for strike authorization. The members of Teamsters Local 952 are prepared to go out on strike if the county does not make a realistic contract offer.

The Orange County Transportation Authority has ignored the reasonable proposals from Local 952, offering wage increases that don't even keep pace with cost of living. Despite continued efforts by the union, and with the contract's expiration date looming on May 1, the transportation authority has refused to make any changes to its economic proposal.

"The transportation authority has not bargained in good faith," said Patrick Kelly, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 952 in Orange, California.

"They have stood behind a proposal that marginalizes the important service these hardworking men and women provide for the citizens of Orange County. It is an insult to these workers."

Earlier this week, the bus drivers voted 917-42 for strike authorization, clearing the way for a job action if Orange County Transportation Authority does not change its position before the contract expires.

"We never like to resort to a strike, but Orange County is leaving these workers little choice in the matter," Kelly said. "If these drivers are forced to strike, the public transit system for the county will come to a standstill."