

Sept 25 Rally for Seán & Jaime

Defend Operators Who Oppose ICE!

In July, SMART bus operators Seán Broadbent and Jaime shared with the LA Public Press that they and around 30 of their coworkers had vowed not to let unidentified, masked and armed ICE agents onboard without a warrant. As a result, they were both fired. After Seán went back to the media saying this was retaliatory, the discipline was reduced to a 60-day suspension. But this remains a threat to the rest of the workforce. So we in the Committee for One Fighting Transit Union joined with other Metro workers to form Unionists for Seán and Jaime, holding a rally on September 25 demanding clean reinstatements with full backpay.

While the rally was small, various Metro union members, other unionists and left activists joined in. It was a success, despite the blowback we encountered. TCU Local 1315 leadership refused to engage. ATU mostly stonewalled, only sending a letter to the top dog at SMART that it then refused to make public, despite a membership motion calling for it to do so. A SMART local vice chairman wanted to speak at the rally, but leadership ordered him to stand down. Meanwhile, rumors circulated that Metro would discipline anyone who attended.

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COMMITTEE FOR ONE FIGHTING TRANSIT UNION

ATU • SMART • TCU • Ambassadors at LA Metro

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October 13, 2025



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for more on the rally, watch

All Metro workers must defend Seán and Jaime! Metro intimidates workers who reach out to the press on safety issues in order to control the narrative. Many coworkers say "follow the policy" or "it's not your bus." But operators are like captains of a ship; they are stewards of their riders. What Metro feared most was this step toward collective action—with drivers taking safety into their own hands—while Trump says ICE can go anywhere. Unions coming together for two of their own would put us in a stronger position to defend all of us. While all rally participants agreed on the main demands, there was open debate on how best to achieve them. The Democratic Socialists of America and others, for example, pushed for Metro to adopt a "proactive policy" to protect immigrants. But Metro already has a policy: to punish people like Seán and Jaime for standing up to ICE. Metro wants transit moving to keep profits flowing to the bosses of Los Angeles. Metro doesn't care about its own workforce, let alone immigrant riders.

The bosses will not bend to moral pressure to do right. The bottom line is all they care about. That's why COFTU demands that the unions flex their muscle. The bosses need us, we don't need them—we make the wheels turn! Keep up on the fight to defend Seán and Jaime at linktree.com/unionists4sj.

No ICE on Metro!

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