

## **UPDATE FROM ACTION TODAY:**

WIN continues to stand in solidarity with members of the Amalgamated Transit Union who operate the DC Circulator buses. Although taxpayers pay for the public service, the service is contracted out to a profit driven corporation - First Transit. We demand fair compensation and safe buses. We demand that the DC government step up and take responsibility. **We thank ATU members for exposing and resisting the lax safety culture of the First Transit bosses.**

Today we stood with ATU members at the DC Council Committee oversight hearing of the Department of Transportation.

Rev. Edmonds, of Mt Lebanon Baptist Church from WIN testified: "We in the Washington Interfaith Network find it strangely peculiar that the District is preparing for the celebration of DC Emancipation Day, and yet there are scores of beloved and hardworking citizens, like the Circulator bus employees who are subject to economic slavery in DC, and life threatening working conditions on the job...

What First Transit has allowed to happen in the way of unsafe and dangerous vehicles to be driven around our city and the nation's capital, threatening the countless lives of all those who work within and ride upon the Circulator, is no less than the crime of another multinational corporation sleeping at the wheel of accountability and honesty, while laughing their way to the bank with a pocket-full of DC taxpayer money.

We implore this elected body to rectify this tragedy, find the money to pay the Circulator employees a wage that is on par with their Metro bus counterparts. Treat the Circulator bus workers with the dignity they richly deserve."

**We have heard that Circulator operators have been made to fear retaliation from First Transit for speaking up about the safety of their buses. Rev. Edmonds made it clear the**

## WASHINGTON INTERFAITH NETWORK WILL NOT STAND FOR THE COMPANY TRYING TO INTIMIDATE WORKERS!!!

**PRESS ROUNDUP:** Below is a press round up. Watch out for TV news clips. Some of our favorites stories are listed first.

- WAMU, second piece - [http://wamu.org/news/16/04/08/drivers\\_union\\_seeks\\_major\\_changes\\_after\\_audit\\_exposes\\_problems\\_with\\_circulator](http://wamu.org/news/16/04/08/drivers_union_seeks_major_changes_after_audit_exposes_problems_with_circulator)
- The Hill: <http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/275658-report-finds-major-safety-concerns-for-dc-circulator-buses>
- DCist.com - [http://dcist.com/2016/04/circulator\\_1.php](http://dcist.com/2016/04/circulator_1.php)
- WTOP, first piece - <http://wtop.com/sprawl-crawl/2016/04/exclusive-audit-finds-dc-circulator-buses-crumbling-unsafe-for-service/>
- WAMU, first piece - [http://wamu.org/news/16/04/07/defective\\_buses\\_inadequate\\_maintenance\\_found\\_in\\_audit\\_of\\_dc\\_circulator?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+WAMU885LocalNews+%28WAMU%3A+Local+News%29](http://wamu.org/news/16/04/07/defective_buses_inadequate_maintenance_found_in_audit_of_dc_circulator?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+WAMU885LocalNews+%28WAMU%3A+Local+News%29)
- Washington Post - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dr-gridlock/wp/2016/04/08/multiple-critical-safety-defects-found-on-d-c-circulator-buses-audit-says/>
- NBC4 - <http://www.nbcwashington.com/traffic/transit/95-Percent-of-DC-Circulator-Buses-Have-At-Least-1-Safety-Issue-Audit-Says-375028901.html>
- Fox5 - <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/118948896-story>
- WUSA9 - <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/union-warns-about-circulator-bus-safety/126029642>
- WTOP, second piece - <http://wtop.com/sprawl-crawl/2016/04/circulator-drivers-say-bus-problems-continue-operator-reports-safety-changes/>
- DCist.com - [http://dcist.com/2016/04/circulator\\_1.php](http://dcist.com/2016/04/circulator_1.php)
- AP - [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/audit-finds-safety-issues-with-washington-circulator-buses/2016/04/08/adf6e290-fd8a-11e5-813a-90ab563f0dde\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/audit-finds-safety-issues-with-washington-circulator-buses/2016/04/08/adf6e290-fd8a-11e5-813a-90ab563f0dde_story.html)

- The Hill - <http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/275658-report-finds-major-safety-concerns-for-dc-circulator-buses>
- The Daily Caller - <http://dailycaller.com/2016/04/08/audit-finds-disturbing-problems-with-dc-public-bus-system/>
- WAMU, second piece - [http://wamu.org/news/16/04/08/drivers\\_union\\_seeks\\_major\\_changes\\_after\\_audit\\_exposes\\_problems\\_with\\_circulator](http://wamu.org/news/16/04/08/drivers_union_seeks_major_changes_after_audit_exposes_problems_with_circulator)