

**TEAMSTERS, CHAUFFEURS, WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS
AND PROFESSIONAL, CLERICAL, PUBLIC AND MISCELLANEOUS EMPLOYEES,
LOCAL UNION NO. 533 OF DONNER & THE TAHOE BASIN, RENO AND
NORTHERN NEVADA**

*Debbie Calkins
Secretary- Treasurer*

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President*



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June 21, 2023

Capital Metropolitan Transit Authority
Board of Directors
2910 East 5th Street
Austin, TX 78702

RE: Keolis Transit

Dear Board Members,

My name is Gary Watson. I am the President of Teamsters Local 533 in Reno, Nevada. My union represents 220 Coach Operators, Dispatchers, Mechanics, Road Supervisors and Utility workers at the RTC Washoe RIDE fixed-route bus transit system. Keolis Transit has held the contract to operate this transit system since 2019.

I write to you today in opposition to Keolis Transit and their desire to operate CapMetro, and to share valuable insights from my experience with Keolis Transit in northern Nevada. In 2021, my members were forced to strike three separate times for a total of 60 days. This was a painful experience—not only for my hard-working transit employee members, but also all of the passengers who rely on transit services in the Reno/Sparks metro area. Our collective bargaining agreement is a well-established agreement which has been in effect since 1988. During negotiations, in my view Keolis had one objective—to exterminate the Union agreement so they could further maximize profits at the expense of the workers and riding public. (I am happy to share with the Board or CapMetro agency staff Keolis bargaining proposals if you should desire to see them.)

Given Keolis's relentless campaign of abusive anti-worker conduct, my Union was forced to file over 120 Unfair Labor Practice Charges against Keolis, many of which found to have merit and were substantiated through the NLRB or through NLRB settlement agreements. This information can be accessed through the NLRB website and Region 32 of the NLRB. You will notice upon your investigation that there are still several active charges pending resolution.

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I encourage your Board to undertake extensive research and due diligence with this contractor, especially as to their employment practices and treatment of workers and the fare-paying riding public. Some of the Keolis management figures CapMetro personnel met with played a part in and were responsible for the strikes and unfair labor practice charges filed against Keolis, all arising out of their labor-exploitative conduct in the Reno area.

I appreciate the opportunity to give a summary of our experiences with Keolis Transit, and if you would like further information, please feel free to contact me at the number or email below.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Watson".

Gary Watson
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