



NEWS FROM **Teamsters Local Union 117**

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AIRPORT DRIVERS CELEBRATE AS PORT CONTRACTOR DROPS PAY-TO-WORK

Drivers Applaud Port for Stepping in to Stop Eastside's Unjust Terminations

(TUKWILA) – Sea-Tac Airport taxi and flat-rate drivers celebrated an announcement by airport contractor Eastside For Hire that the company would drop its Pay-To-Work plan and reinstate 29 vehicles and their drivers who had been terminated from the airport taxi fleet earlier this month.

Drivers were prepared to take a strike authorization vote on Friday to protest the terminations and a scheme requiring drivers to pay thousands of dollars or lose access to the airport. After Eastside's announcement that it was dropping Pay-To-Work, the strike approval meeting turned into a celebration.

"This is a great victory. We stood together in our union to protect our jobs," said Suldan Mohamed, a driver who has worked in the taxi industry for 13 years. "We are not divided by color, religion, or background. We are all one community trying to support our families."

"We were able to achieve this through our unity," added Harinder Singh. "But the threat is not over. We need to stay united and be ready to take action again if necessary."

On April 17, hundreds of drivers participated in a peaceful protest at Sea-Tac Airport to protest Eastside's plan to reduce the taxi fleet and impose additional fees on drivers. Drivers spoke out at Port Commission meetings against the unjust terminations and met individually with commissioners.

The Port ultimately directed Eastside to rescind its plan and said it would exercise its right to inspect Eastside's records related to the terminations. At today's meeting, drivers wrote cards thanking the Commission for their support. "We want to thank the Port of Seattle for listening to drivers and taking this issue seriously," Mohamed said. "This is a great day for us and our families."

"I want to congratulate Teamster taxi drivers on this important victory," said John Scearcy, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters 117. "They showed that by standing together in their union they can protect their livelihoods and prevail in the face of unjust working conditions. Our union is stronger through their membership, unity, and resolve."