



Union rally drew an estimated crowd of 1,700 to 2000 to Patsaouras Plaza at MTA Headquarters Thursday morning.

STRIKERS RALLY AT MTA HEADQUARTERS

SCENES FROM THE CROWD

Strikers pose as "Barney," umbrellas and "mini-buses" at Thursday's rally.



Board Members Call News Conference

Talks to Resume Friday

By BILL HEARD, Editor
(Sept. 21) Striking MTA workers and their AFL-CIO supporters gathered at MTA Headquarters, Thursday morning, for a rally aimed at bolstering the unions' contract demands.

The LAPD Incident Command Post estimated the crowd at between 1,700 and 2,000 at the height of the rally. Throughout the day, the crowd was upbeat and noisy, but peaceful. The LAPD reported no incidents during the event.

The MTA Board of Directors, meanwhile, called a news conference for 2 p.m. at the Hall of Administration, to respond to the union rally and to discuss the status of negotiations.

No bargaining talks were set for today, although negotiators for the MTA and UTU are scheduled to meet at 10 a.m., Friday. Negotiations also are to be held, Tuesday, with the TCU. No face-to-face meetings have been scheduled with the ATU.



Lined the sidewalks

Waving strike signs and American flags and wearing their blue uniform shirts and pants, MTA bus and rail operators began lining the sidewalks along Cesar Chavez and Vignes streets about 10 a.m.



PHOTOS BY BILL HEARD

Congregated in a parking lot just north of the Gateway building, some line-danced to music that blared from huge speakers set up at the street corner. Two operators circulated through the crowd wearing miniature buses around their waists. Another, dressed as the Barney cartoon character, waved a picket sign at passing cars.

As the time approached for the noon march to Patsaouras Plaza, speakers - including City Council members, Assembly members and mayoral candidates - stood on the bed of a sound truck to harangue the crowd. The strikers roared approval and chanted strike slogans.

Just before noon, the demonstrators began moving toward Patsaouras Plaza where they heard more rallying speeches. Holding picket sign overhead, they then circled the plaza, then began to disperse and had cleared the plaza by 1 p.m.

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