

## Strike in 14th Day

- **MTA Continues Effort to Restart Talks**
- **UTU to Work on Counterproposal**
- **Bargaining Session set Saturday**

(Sept. 29) As striking UTU bus operators and AFL-CIO supporters demonstrated at City Hall on Friday - the 14th day of the work stoppage - the MTA continued its efforts to restart bargaining talks with union negotiators. A negotiating session is scheduled Saturday afternoon.

[READ LETTER](#)  
from Board  
Chair Burke to  
UTU's Williams

A union spokesman told media, Friday, that UTU General Chairman James Williams "indicated he would work on a comprehensive proposal." It was the first indication since negotiations began that the union would present a full-scale counterproposal to the MTA's contract offer.

In a letter presented Thursday to Williams, MTA Board Chair Yvonne Burke stressed three major points, including a request that the UTU "submit a comprehensive proposal outlining what the union leadership requires to end this strike."

The letter also asked Williams to allow strikers to return to work and requested that "the UTU agree with the MTA to call in a federal mediator." However, the MTA is not insisting upon the involvement of a mediator as a condition for reopening bargaining talks.

The UTU spokesman said Williams "absolutely refused" the intervention of a federal mediator or sending strikers back to work "during this period."

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