

UTCC VOICE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED TAXIDRIVERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Volume I

December 2008

Issue 6

STRIKE!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30 - 2PM
to MONDAY DECEMBER 1 - 2PM

CHICAGO- In a rally and press conference on Tuesday, November 25, cab drivers announced a 24-hour strike beginning Sunday, November 30, at 2 PM. The strike comes during the peak holiday shopping season, a 60,000 delegate convention in Chicago and the busiest travel weekend of the year, promising to be a "logistical nightmare" for the City of Chicago.

The strike is assured to cost the city in millions of dollars of lost revenue, while the business community will be the heaviest hit. Frustrated by skyrocketing costs, drivers are demanding a 16% fare increase effective January 1, 2009. cabdriver income now averages \$5.77 an hour, well below minimum wage, while the average shift is thirteen hours.

To add insult to injury, Department of Consumer Services Com-

missioner Norma Reyes has said a fare increase for the next year "is not a given," (WBBM News Radio). Driver group United Taxidriers Community Council (UTCC) says drivers cannot afford to wait any longer for the long overdue fare

treating us like slaves and gives us a 16% fare increase. This strike is going to have a colossal impact not only on the holiday shopping season, but on Chicago's convention industry and rides to and from the airport where demand will ex-

Maxson said. "It's evident walking down the street there's a huge need for cab services. It's extremely necessary to have adequate transport during this busy time." (The Windy City News)

"Our costs have gone up. The cost of living is

nesses everywhere. The strike will create a logistical nightmare during the busiest time of the year."

"It's either hike or strike," says Ron Florence, UTCC Spokesperson. "We don't want to strike but the City of Chicago is leaving us with little choice. We will strike if that's what it will take for Mayor Daley to come to the table with us." City News

Other key reforms drivers are demanding is a biennial (every two years) review of rates of fare, based upon cost of living and cost of driving, and incremental fare increases on the basis of the findings.

Other key reforms are a freeze of their lease rates & investigation of illegal leasing practices, restoration of meter & half rates to Skokie, Burbank & Elk Grove Village and a moratorium on the issuing of new medallions.

"We are going to strike and it is going to have a colossal impact not only on the holiday shopping season, but on Chicago's convention industry and rides to and from the airport where demand will exceed the amount of available cabs very quickly"

increase, especially when there is no guarantee for one next year.

"Every other industry has had a cost of living increase but the taxi driver industry hasn't had one in almost four years" says Peter Enger, a UTCC member.

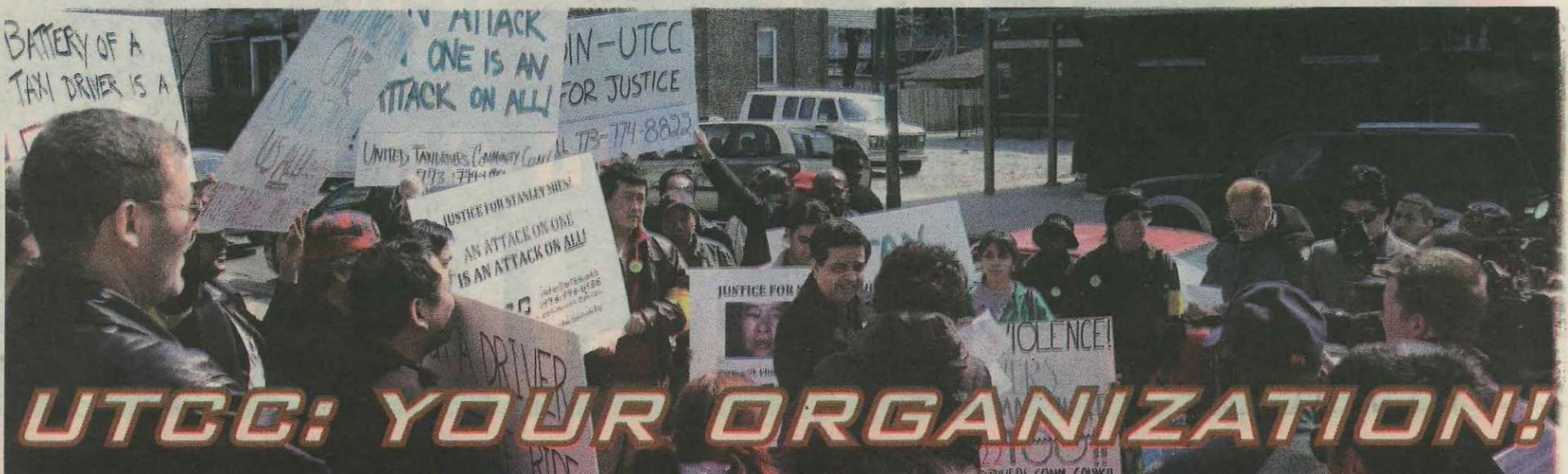
"We will strike unless the City of Chicago has a change of heart, stops

ceed the amount of available cabs very quickly," says Favez Khozindar, UTCC Chair.

Drivers have been reaching to out to high-traffic business as well. John Maxson, President and CEO of the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association agrees with drivers. "Yes absolutely, we would be affected,"

skyrocketing, maintenance costs are on the rise and we still have not gotten a fare increase. We want a seat at the table, not table scraps!" says Khozindar.

"We are working with businesses in the area and they understand that the strike not only affects airport and convention traffic, but it affects busi-



UTCC: YOUR ORGANIZATION!



UNITED TAXIDRIVERS

CABDR ONIST

NOV. 30TH 2PM

DEMANDS

- 16% Fare Increase effective
- Freeze on lease rate and leasing practices
- Restoration of Meter & Elk Grove Village
- Moratorium on issuing

773-774-UTCC /

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

RIVERS

RIKE!

- DEC. 1ST 2PM

ective January 1st, 2009

ps & enforcement of lawful

1/2 rates to Skokie, Burbank

of new medallions

info@goutcc.org

UTCC

PO Box 10877, CHICAGO, IL 60610

E-MAIL: INFO@GOUTCC.ORG

PHONE: (773) 774 UTCC

WWW.GOUTCC.ORG

UNITED TAXIDRIVERS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

WHY DO WE HAVE TO STRIKE?

The City has taken enough money from us in the last four years! Now we need to strike for our rights!

- The \$50 reinspection fee!
- Reduce taxi car life by 1 year
- Reinspection changes to 3 days later instead of any time within the next three days
- Credit card with 5% fee is mandatory
- Skokie, Burbank and Elk Grove Village are now straight meter
- Fines for 400 W Superior have TRIPLED!
- License is revoked if we are charged with a felony!
- Lease's keep going higher and higher even in violation of the city's laws!

OUR DEMANDS:

- ✓ 16% Fare Increase
- ✓ Freeze of the Lease Rates & enforcement of lawful leasing practices
- ✓ Restoration of Meter & Half to Skokie, Burbank & Elk Grove Village
- ✓ Moratorium on issuing of new medallions

**NOVEMBER 30, 2PM TO
DECEMBER 1, 2PM**

STRIKE!!



American Friends Service Committee, Community Ally

REYES: Fare increase not "a given" in 2009

Commissioner Reyes has said in an interview with WBBM news radio, responding to whether a fare increase in 2009 was a "given":

"No, it is not a given. It is never a given. You have to look at all the factors and all the factors that come into play. You have to look at what the expenses are for the taxi drivers you also have to look at the impact that its going to have on consumers. You also have to look at the cost of living index which of course has changed and has gone up. One of the important things we need to look at is what we have done thus far in the past 4 years to provide more income for the taxi drivers and owners in the city of Chicago."

- Consumer Services Commissioner Reyes

Chicago Cabdrivers! Do not be deceived by any promises of a fare increase in April- Until the City comes out clearly to announce and put into law our demands and UTCC announces that a settlement has been reached, do not trust anyone- Nothing is achievable, unless we are fight for it!

We can't do it alone, but
TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT!

WHY WE HAD TO CALL A STRIKE...

During the last year, Norma Reyes and Mayor Daley have refused to negotiate with us. They refused to meet with cabdrivers so they have left us with very few choices. In the end, they are the ones who have called this strike not us. We wanted to talk our problems out with them but they didn't want to talk.

Norma Reyes and Mayor Daley have to understand that we are not a small part of a group, we are the drivers themselves. The city of Chicago has taken so much more from us since raising the fare in 2005.

We are now paying a mandatory 5% credit card fee to process credit card payments. We have also lost more ground in our working area because the City has eliminated the meter and a half to Skokie, Elk Grove, and Burbank.

The city has continuously changed rules without talking to us about them and it has changed them without any criteria. We need to act now!

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TOGETHER, WE CAN DO IT!