

KITTAAMA  
009.00  
KTC

Hello; International President Larry Hanley; my name is Abasi Kitt. I'm a transit bus operator with R.G.R.T.A. in Rochester N.Y. and a member of the Local 282 since October 2010. I originally became a full time Operator in September 2010.

Jacques Chapman is the current President of The Local 282. Back in May of 2013 I informed President Chapman that I was being recruited by the Rochester Fire Department to be in their summer class of 2013. I let President Chapman know that my employment with the City of Rochester Fire Department was contingent upon me graduating from their class. The binding agreement between Regional Transit Service, Incorporated and Amalgamated Transit Union Local 282 at that time stated; "Employees off on a leave of absence shall not take any other employment without the consent of the Company and the Union." So figuring that I was trying to do a job that would help the community and hearing rumors that other employees were granted a leave of absence to pursue careers like Deputy Sherriff; " Let me do the right thing and communicate to both the Company and the Union."

I was surprised when President Chapman told me not to tell anyone of my plans and just take the leave of absence. I did not feel comfortable taking that course of action. I'm a man of ethics and tried to do everything the right way. Between being told to do something unethical by Union leadership and being told by management of the Company that I would have to resign in order to join the 2013 Fire Fighter class; I regrettably resigned my position July 5th 2013.

Unfortunately things didn't work out at the Fire Department due to my health. Fortunately I got hired back to R.G.R.T.A. October 26, 2013. But as a part time Bus Operator. In three months I lost almost three years and had 66 people hirer up on the seniority list than I who were just three months ago below me. I don't like how the Union leadership and the Company handled this situation. If I should have to write a letter of resignation then I would think that it would be proper for the other parties (Union and Company) to formally write me a letter of denial with a small explanation. I received none from either party.

I like the rest of the employees pay Union dues and should be able to trust that the Union Leadership would act ethically and try to do what is in the best interest of the employees. I have come to realize that it may be too late to salvage the career of #3198 and I will possibly go on as 3417; but this situation brings up greater issue of rules of conduct. President Jacques Chapman shouldn't be allowed to crawl back into the dark and act like this situation didn't exist. I would appreciate if you could look into this matter for me and let me know if anything could be done.

I know you deal with the Union side of things. As far as dealing with the Company; I have been trying to contact R.G.R.T.A. Board of Directors. They are James H. Redmond, Thomas R. Argust, Stephen J. Carl, Robert J. Fischer, Barber J. Jones and Karen C. Pryor. If you know how I can contact them; please let me know or pass my contact info to them.

Yours truly;

Abasi A. Kitt