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November 15, 2011

Bill Fisch, B.Com, LLB, JD
Regional Chair and CEO
The Regional Municipality of York
17250 Yonge St., Box 147
Newmarket, ON
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Dear Mr. Fisch,

RE: York Region Transit Strike; Whitchurch-Stouffville, Richmond Hill Service

Miller Transit felt it was important to forward to you and the other Members of Council our position on the subject matter. The following, therefore, outlines the facts that led up to the strike mandate.

- Over a period of 6 months, representatives of Miller Transit and the ATU met for 18 bargaining sessions.

- The Union showed little interest in bargaining substantive issues. Its admitted strategy was to secure strike mandates from GO employees and the three YRT contractors with the intention of creating a major disruption of service, to inconvenience as many people as possible in order to extract maximum concessions and to force the Region to the bargaining table.

- The Union did not even table a financial position until after the 18th session. The Union seeks wage increases of over 20% over a three-year contract, with over 16% in the first year.

- Miller Transit has offered a total of 13.5% over a five-year contract, an average of 2.7% per year.

- The increases contained in the financial elements of the Miller proposal are more generous than those which were accepted by the GO employees, than those accepted by other transit workers in York Region, and than those contained in recent collective agreements across many sectors, public and private.

- Miller believes it has been more than fair in this process.

- The Miller proposal is in all respects, financial and otherwise, a significant improvement upon our previous agreement with this Union. Miller has not sought any concessions in bargaining.

- There are no meetings currently scheduled between the ATU and Miller, though we remain in regular contact.

Our proposal is generous. Few if any working families in York Region will see more substantial increases in compensation in light of the present state of the economy in Ontario, and the resulting challenges faced by both governments and the private sector.

The above is for your information.

Yours truly,

D Sguigna

Dan Sguigna
Vice-President

cc: Regional Councillors