



# California Conference Board AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

EST. 1920

1744 North Main Street • Los Angeles, California 90031



May 27, 2021

Dear ATU brothers and sisters,

Yesterday, an unimaginable and *completely unnecessary* act of senseless gun violence took place in the light rail yard of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (SCVTA). TEN *totally innocent* victims of this appalling, cowardly act (including the deceased shooter) are dead. They are brothers from our ATU Local 265 in San Jose/Santa Clara.

This horrible assault on these hard-working, dedicated frontline workers—*our ATU brothers!*—took place just after 6:30 a.m., during the busy shift changes. So far, no one—law enforcement, ATU co-workers, and Local 265 officers—have any clear motive for this atrocity. Media reports suggest the shooter (I do not want to even dignify him with a name) was angry with his family, co-workers and maybe his job itself.

*Whatever the twisted motive, nothing—absolutely nothing—can remotely justify this tragedy, the lost lives and careers, and the devastated families!*

We totally mourn the untimely and uncalled for deaths of eight Local 265 brothers:

Adrian Balleza, 29	Jose Dejesus Hernandez III, 35
Taptejdeep Singh, 36	Michael Joseph Rudometkin, 40
Timothy Michael Romo, 49	Alex Ward Fritch, 49
Abdolvahab Alaghmandan, 63	Lars Kepler Lane, 63
Paul Delacruz Megia, 42 (SEIU)	

More than 230 gun-violence, mass-killing events have taken place in our country just *so far this year!* This is insanity, and it must stop.

Our hearts are torn, our souls are battered by this incomprehensible incident that has struck at every foundation of our Union: the workplace, the membership meeting, and the trust and loyalty we ATU brothers and sisters show each other day in and day out.

We bow our heads in prayer and offer what condolences we can to bereaved friends and families. God rest all our victims from this tragic day.

Sadly, and In Solidarity,

Arturo E. Aguilar  
Chairman of the ATU  
California Conference Board

LOCAL 192 OAKLAND – LOCAL 256 SACRAMENTO – LOCAL 265 SAN JOSE – LOCAL 276 STOCKTON – LOCAL 1027 FRESNO  
LOCAL 1225 SAN FRANCISCO – LOCAL 1277 LOS ANGELES – LOCAL 1309 SAN DIEGO – LOCAL 1555 OAKLAND – LOCAL 1574 SAN MATEO  
LOCAL 1575 SAN RAFAEL – LOCAL 1605 CONCORD – LOCAL 1704 SAN BERNARDINO – LOCAL 1756 ARCADIA