

## **New Sparks in the Workers' Movement**

*Although we are not part of either of the struggles below, we are promoting them as indications of a new progressive trend in the workers' movement.*

### **“F. Christophe Silvera announces his Candidacy for General President of the Teamsters Union**

#### **The Platform:**

##### **Serving The Community**

F. Christophe "Chris" Silvera is the longest serving elected principal officer in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT). He has been a principal officer for over 30 years serving in the capacity as the Secretary Treasurer of Teamsters Local 808 in Long Island City, New York. He has been a Teamster for 37 years. Local 808 represents a diverse group of labor union workers including railroad, building maintenance, factory, cemetery and public sector workers. Chris has a history of aggressive and progressive trade unionism and has continued to achieve increased value for his members.



In 1998, Chris became the first Chairman of the Teamsters National Black Caucus (TNBC) to be elected by the rank and file. He was re-elected to a 2nd term in 2003. Under his leadership, TNBC grew from two local chapters to fourteen chapters nationwide. Besides providing scholarships to students entering colleges and giving financial support to various educational institutions, the caucus had been heavily involved in the workers struggle.

As Secretary Treasurer of Local 808 and Chairman of the TNBC, Chris was one of the co-conveners for the Million Worker March Movement in 2004 and the Millions More Movement in 2005. He led Local 808 in facilitating the mobilization of the largest non-violent march and rally in the history of New York City on May 1, 2006, "May Day", as cited by the NYC Police Department. Local 808 served as the headquarters for the 60+ community and labor-based organizations that participated in the march. This was a rally and march for both immigrant rights and the 120th year anniversary of the Haymarket Affair in Chicago.

#### **United By A Common Goal**

Chris is running for General President to lead a democratic union that respects the will of the membership and their local unions. He is running to lead a union that will fight not only for good contracts, but so much more.

We have the power! Join Chris in a bottoms-up campaign to improve the lives of our Teamster members and their families and to better the conditions of working America.”

To join the campaign or donate money, go to the website at <https://fcsilvera.com/>

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Recently, John Ferretti won election to the Executive Board of Local 100 of the Transport Workers Union (bus and subway workers in New York City), one of the most important unions in the city. He ran on a platform of the Fightback Coalition, part of whose platform calls on unions to support progressive social struggles.

