

Ottawa Bus Drivers are "overreacting to slaying" says Ottawa City Councillor

September 27, 2006

Clive Doucet, vice-chair of the city's transportation committee and city councillor says transit workers are overreacting to last week's fatal stabbing with their calls for greater security on public transit.

Doucet said he does not believe violent incidents are increasing and that said some of the union's proposed security measures will damage "the touching social interaction" he has witnessed between passengers and bus drivers.

Bus drivers say that in the past month, there have been other violent incidents, including one in which a bus driver was attacked with a beer bottle.

Please click the following link for more information:

[CBC Article](#)

ATU Local 279 President Says Fatal Stabbing Should be a 'Wake-up' Call

September 25, 2006

OTTAWA-- The stabbing death of 23-year-old Michael Oatway on the Route 118 bus along Baseline Rd. last Thursday night highlights the dangers for both passengers and drivers from attackers, says Andre Cornellier, President of Local 279 in Ottawa.

Cornellier said the union has presented a safety plan, which the city is expected to respond to next week, and urged city politicians to "get their head out of the sand" and take measures to provide more protection to passengers and drivers.

The Route 118 extended bus was travelling east on Baseline Rd. around 11 p.m. Thursday when Michael Oatway was stabbed with a knife.

The bus stopped at a bus stop at Baseline Rd. and Centrepointe Dr. after the incident where a group of males fled the bus. Paramedics transported Oatway to the Ottawa Hospital's Civic campus, where he was pronounced dead, confirming Ottawa's 14th homicide of the year.

Two males were arrested on Friday and brought in for questioning. A 17-year-old youth was charged with first-degree murder on Saturday. Under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, the youth's name cannot be published. The youth is also charged with robbery and possession of a restricted weapon. There are unconfirmed reports that the robbery charge is in connection with a personal music player.

Cornellier says the city doesn't take assaults on drivers seriously. "We, as a union, know of a lot of assaults, verbal assaults, spitting on drivers and physical assaults on drivers," he said. "If you let that go undetected or unpunished, then eventually you'll come up to what happened [on Thursday]."

Please click the following link for more information:

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