

# Mayor Menino: Stop the Injustice!

## City Hall Should Not Be In the Business of Denying Jobs to Hard Working Members of Our Community!

First Student, Inc. Has Agreed to Hire **Marcus Jean**.  
Mayor Menino: Stop the Government Interference, Now!

**Call Mayor Menino Today: 617 635-4500**



**Marcus Jean, Atty. Barry Wilson, and the Marcus Jean Defense Committee celebrate Jean's court victory on Nov. 14, 2002. photo: Boston Banner**

## Bus driver cleared of terror threat charges

Yawu Miller

School bus driver Marcus Jean's 10-month ordeal with the criminal justice system started as a simple labor dispute.

After an argument with a fellow driver in the Laidlaw bus lot, Jean was confronted by his manager and engaged in a brief, but heated shouting match.

Jean's ordeal escalated, however,

with police alleging that Jean threatened to blow up the trailer that serves as Laidlaw's office in the Hyde Park bus lot.

Jean was cleared last week of the charges, but the verdict came after ten months, several demonstrations, a two-day trial and 40 minutes of jury deliberations. Jean's case drew the attention of both anti-war protesters — who opposed the prosecution of an immigrant worker on terrorism charges — and the Boston Police,

*continued to page 19*

Shortly following 9/11, Marcus Jean was called in to see his white boss at the Laidlaw school bus company for a small incident that took place involving Mr. Jean allegedly blocking a white driver's school bus for a few seconds while Mr. Jean emptied a trash bucket at the bus terminal. Mr. Jean pointed out that the white driver had not been called in, and charged the boss with discrimination. The issue had been resolved with Jean's immediate supervisor the previous evening, and Jean knew that the terminal manager, Rick McLaughlin, raising it again violated his union rights under the union contract. That afternoon McLaughlin went to the police and claimed that Marcus Jean repeatedly threatened to blow up the building and that he posed a serious "terrorist" threat. The Boston Police Report sited Laidlaw Corporation as the "victim". McLaughlin subsequently fired Jean for this false charge.

This use of Bush's post 9/11 endless war "Homeland Security" machine to intervene in a minor routine labor-management dispute was an outrageous attack on all of labor. Rank and file leaders in Jean's union, USWA Local 8751 Boston School Bus Drivers, together with labor and antiwar activists already involved in fighting back against the Bush wars abroad and war on workers at home, launched a vigorous defense campaign. They formed the Marcus Jean Defense Committee, and distributed thousands of flyers. They obtained legal defense for Marcus Jean, and on every appearance of the case they held pickets outside the courthouse and packed the courtroom. The strength of this solidarity and the complete lack of credibility of the company's case led to victory in court on November 13, 2002. It only took the 6 person jury 20 minutes to return the not guilty verdict!

But the company's attack on Marcus Jean did not end despite his vindication in court. From that day to this, he has not been able to return to his job. Having been found not guilty in a court of law, elementary justice demands that he be reinstated immediately with complete back pay to the date of his unjust firing. But in the 2 ½ years since his victory in court, he has not been allowed to drive a Boston School Bus for a single day. In that time, the Laidlaw Company has been replaced by First Student as the company contracted by the Boston Schools to deliver Boston's children to school. First Student agreed to hire Marcus Jean back, and sent him for all the qualifying tests in preparation for returning to driving a Boston school bus. But Mayor Menino intervened in a flagrant and illegal interference in a private company's affairs and Marcus Jean's employment and union rights, to see that Marcus Jean could not be allowed to drive a Boston school bus. Stop the injustice now! Call Mayor Menino at 617-635-4500 or email him at [mayor@cityofboston.gov](mailto:mayor@cityofboston.gov) and demand that he stop interfering and allow Marcus Jean back to work.

Marcus Jean Defense Committee c/o International Action Center 284 Amory St JP 617-522-6626 [www.iacboston.org](http://www.iacboston.org)