



COMMISSIONERS OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Vince DiFilippo
Chairman

Jim Hertzler
Vice Chairman

Gary Eichelberger
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2017

Cumberland Officials Vow No Cutoff of Bus Service for Commuters

Cumberland County, PA - In response to statements made on Thursday, May 11, by Capital Area Transit (CAT) management, that bus service for residents might be terminated on July 1, 2017, the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners stated “unequivocally service will not be interrupted”:

“This is a ham fisted act of discrimination against the County by a small group of CAT officials to feather their nests and slow the progress towards transit regionalization,” stated Commissioner Gary Eichelberger. Chairman Vince DiFilippo stated “This seeks to make victims of our commuters in the bigger fight against CAT’s waste, poor service and betrayal of the public’s interest.”

The threats were made by consultant Anthony Johnson, interim Manager of CAT, at a CAT Board meeting on Thursday after Cumberland voted against Johnson’s proposed budget for 2018 that featured a 5% increase in spending and an 8% reduction of services. Commissioner Jim Hertzler stated “We won’t sit by and allow a mismanaged CAT to cut transit services to our citizens.”

The statement outlined a 3 pronged response: immediate legal action to enjoin CAT from taking any action that would jeopardize service in the County; exploration of possible legal actions against any individual(s) responsible for illegally terminating bus service in the County; and assurances that alternative transportation would be made available to anyone impacted by CAT actions.

Johnson’s threat constituted a manufactured crisis aimed at Cumberland’s vote against his bloated budget proposal. Following the vote, CAT Board leadership attempted unsuccessfully to force a resolution through the Board coercing CAT’s 3 funding partners to commit to providing local match for Fiscal Year 2018. Representatives from Cumberland and Dauphin County voted against the measure.

Existing agreements and previous overpayments give CAT sufficient basis to obtain PennDOT funding; and even without it, to run through September – October of this year. In 2016, the CAT Board agreed to use those funds as appropriate to meet PennDOT match requirements. The

resolution CAT management tried to push through contradicted that decision and ran roughshod over legal restrictions on such action.

Cumberland County has made it clear for the last 2 years that it will provide new local match as soon as CAT takes decisive steps towards regionalization. To date, no such step has been taken although there has been significant movement in that direction in recent months. Per Chairman DiFilippo, “The benefits of transit regionalization in service and savings to the citizens of Cumberland, Dauphin and Harrisburg are indisputable.”

The Commissioners announced they have set up a hotline at **717-240-7350** and BusQuestions@ccpa.net to answer any questions and provide assistance to Cumberland County commuters with concerns about their public transportation options going forward.

#