HJR 26: Joint Resolution on Transit Operator Safety Awareness

The Problem: Nationwide assaults on operators have risen 4x in the last decade (UTA: 46% increase in 5 years)

Man refuses to pay for fare, threatens UTA driver, police say



In January, Joseph Jameau Mateos, 21, was charged with assault with intent to commit a bus hijacking after police say he refused to pay for a fare and insinuated to the driver he had a gun.

Man charged in attack on UTA bus driver and police officers



MOST VIEWED

In December, Cameron Michael Ward, 25, was charged with two counts of disarming an officer and aggravated assault for allegedly assaulting a UTA bus driver without provocation and later fighting with police officers attempting to arrest him.

Salt Lake man charged with trying to hijack UTA bus



In 2021, Francis Xavier Barth was charged with assault with intent to commit a bus hijacking and criminal mischief after threatening a driver and then trying to drive away with the bus after the driver exited for safety. He pleaded guilty in May and was sentenced to three years of probation.

HJR26: A Resolution of Support for Transit Workers

- The resolution acknowledges the critically important role transit operators play as part of the state's transportation infrastructure
- Expresses concern for the rise in assaults on transit operators
- Calls for perpetrators of assaults on transit workers to be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law

