

# Men who damaged UCP vehicles are still being sought by police

Police are still searching for the men who damaged two vehicles earlier this week during apparent strike-related violence against United Cerebral Palsy of New York State.

Meanwhile, a UCP official reported yesterday that picket lines had been quiet since the two incidents occurred about 10:30 a.m. Monday.

One situation involved a truck delivering supplies at UCP's Community Training Center in Mariners Harbor. As the driver of the truck was backing up to the rear entrance of the building, he was approached by five or six men and ordered out of the vehicle. The men then slashed the truck tires and broke the windows.

In a similar incident, an ambulance responding to an emergency at the Staten Island Developmental Center lost its way and ended up at a building operated by UCP. Picketers at the area "exchanged words" with the ambulance technicians, and the technicians walked away. When they returned, they found the ambulance tires slashed and the windshield and rear window broken.

The perpetrators have not been identified, although police said they are assuming that members of the Amalgamated

Transit Union Local 1181-1061 were responsible.

The union represents about 100 bus drivers and monitors at UCP who have been on strike for the past two months.

"I can't see anybody else damaging the vehicle," said Detective James Mercer, of the Police Department Property Squad, who is investigating the incident at SIDC.

He said that the technicians were driven around the Warner complex after the attack, but did not see the perpetrators. Mercer said the police "don't have much else to go on," but the investigation is continuing.

Cora Hoffman, assistant executive director of UCP, said union officials are considering a "final offer" for a contract from UCP. That offer includes a 7 percent pay increase for one year, with continuing negotiations for a longer-term contract when the

one-year agreement expires in June.

UCP officials have said that if the union rejects the offer, UCP will disband its transportation unit and subcontract for transportation for its 700 clients.