

Workers urge boycott of Enterprise: Outsourcing plan seen as union-busting

By **Jay Fitzgerald**

Thursday, July 12, 2007 - Updated: 12:31 AM EST

Local workers and unions are calling for a boycott of Enterprise Rent-A-Car for what they say is the outsourcing of jobs in order to quash efforts by employees to unionize at the company's East Boston facility.



Reprisal? Enterprise employees, Jonny Arevalo, foreground, and back row, from left, Richard Addario, Leo Pais and Ricardo Figueroa, say that their employer's announcement it was outsourcing jobs to a Texas company was made after workers informed the

Meanwhile, the Greater Boston Labor Council is warning the Massachusetts Port Authority, which oversees Logan International Airport, not to allow Enterprise to operate on airport land if the labor dispute isn't resolved.

About 30 workers were recently informed by St. Louis-based Enterprise that their car-cleaning and passenger-shuttle jobs on Route 1 would be outsourced to a Texas-based company.

But Jonny Arevalo, a longtime Enterprise employee, said the outsourcing announcement was made after workers informed the car-rental giant that they intended to form a union.

“They started to make all the moves at that time,” said Arevalo, who plans to join fellow workers and union representatives at a protest today at Enterprise’s East Boston facility.

The call for a boycott is just the first step, union officials say.

Next month, Enterprise plans to relocate its East Boston operations to a property at Logan.

Rich Rogers, head of the Greater Boston Labor Council, said unions will “bring the issue to the next level” by seeking “political pressure” to block Enterprise from operating at Logan.

A Massport spokesman said the authority was not aware of the labor dispute.

A spokeswoman for Enterprise said it has outsourced similar jobs across the country and the move has nothing to do with union-organizing efforts. The spokeswoman said all workers will be allowed to reapply for their old jobs with the Texas company.