

For Immediate Release: Friday, March 21, 2014

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Electeds, ATU 1056 Remind Community They Got Their Bus Service Back

Members of the Assembly Edward C. Braunstein and Nily Rozic and Council Member I. Daneek Miller, joined Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1056 today (Friday, March 21, 2014) that new and restored bus service by the MTA get fully implemented next month (April 2014). At the Jamaica Bus terminal at Merrick Boulevard and 89th Avenue (Across from the Queens Library main branch), ATU 1056 President and Business Agent Mark Henry, concerned legislators and concerned community members, including Deputy Borough President Leroy Comrie, former City Council Deputy Majority Leader Archie Spigner, District Managers Yvonne Reddick (Community Board 12) and Lawrence McClean (Community Board 13) and representatives of Councilman Donovan Richards and the Queens Civic Congress, to take advantage of new and restored service starting Sunday, April 6 on the [Q77](#) (Sunday service) and [Q31](#) (weekend service). Henry noted previous service restorations on the [Q76](#) (October 2012), [Q24](#), [Q27](#) and [Q36](#) (extension of route to restore the former Q79), [Q30](#) and [Q42](#) (January 2013). ATU 1056 members – bus operators and mechanics – work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division and serve the riding public.

“ATU Local 1056 wants the public to know about both new service and the return of service once the subject of the misguided and hurtful cuts that affected many communities outside Manhattan,” stated ATU President Henry who noted ATU Local 1056 had organized news conferences, rallies and other events with electeds and community leaders, and testified at hearings to get the MTA to reverse harmful cuts. “We made clear that the dollars existed to restore service in Queens and the facts today make that clear. ATU 1056 will work together with the community, our electeds and our sister transit unions to make sure the MTA delivers what the riding public in Queens needs.”

President Henry, who also is active with the MTA Labor Coalition, also thanked the community and their electeds for their advocacy and support. ATU 1056 also thanked the three MTA board members who strongly pressed the case for restoring service.



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the Queens Division, Who safely Operate
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*Serving the communities of Queens,
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"The service restorations are a tangible sign that the MTA is moving in the right direction," stated **MTA board member Allen Cappelli**. "Local 1056 president Mark Henry and his members, working collaboratively with management should be proud, that the best interest of our riders was achieved through this team effort. I look forward to even more service improvements as we focus on less bureaucracy and more buses and trains!"

"I am proud to be part of the coalition that provide these new and restored bus service," stated **City Council Member I. Daneek Miller**. "Through the collaborative efforts of the community, labor, management, and elected officials we were able to restore the Q31 and Q77 bus lines. Through resiliency of collective partnerships, the people of Southeast Queens have regained services that as long been overdue."

"Of the 231 counties with populations of 250,000 or more Queens has the longest average commute times in the entire United States," stated **Assembly Member Barbara Clark**. "The communities of southeast Queens have the longest average commute times in Queens. Since so many Queens residents who use mass transit must rely on bus service we cannot but applaud these enhancements in service. As not only an elected representative of the residents of southeast Queens but one who has fought long and hard to secure such enhancements, where the Q77 is concerned, mine is a standing ovation. Let us hope there will be more to come."

"The restoration of weekend service for the Q31 is great news for the residents of Northeast Queens," stated **Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein** (D-Bayside). This will make life easier for many people who have had difficulty getting to work, visiting family, or attending religious services on Saturdays and Sundays. The Q31 provides a vital link for Queens residents, as it travels from Northeast Queens to Jamaica, which is a major transportation hub. The restoration of the Q31 will ensure that Queens residents, who are not directly served by the subway system, have easier access to locations throughout New York City. I want to thank the MTA and ATU Local 1056 for working together to improve public transportation in our community."

"The restoration of service of the Q31 and Q77 is great news for transit riders," stated **Assemblywoman Nily Rozic** (D,WF-Fresh Meadows). "Eastern Queens remains a transit desert with an ever increasing demand for MTA services. We must continue to restore and expand mass transit for all New Yorkers."

"Our community has been overburdened by a lack of reliable transportation for far too long," said **Councilman Donovan Richards**. "The Q77 is a bus that should have never stopped running on the weekend in the first place, and I support ATU 1056's efforts to restore service."

"**Community Board 13** is gratified that full weekend service has been restored to the Q77 bus," stated its **Chairman Bryan J. Block**. "Our constituents who had been deprived of service along Francis Lewis Boulevard, connecting along Hillside Avenue, to shopping such as the Pathmark Mall and connections to Green Acres Shopping Center will receive the service to which they are entitled."

"This is a welcome service, as some **Community Board 8** residents attend church services in St. Albans and other Southeast Queens communities," stated its **District Manager Marie Adam-Ovide**. "This will both save time and make commutes easier. They can just board one bus on Hillside Avenue instead of having to go to Jamaica and transfer to another bus."

“The **Queens Civic Congress**, a coalition of over 100 civic and co-op/condo organizations throughout Queens, is pleased that weekend service will be restored on the Q31 and Q77 lines,” its **President Rich Hellenbrecht**. “We thank ATU Local 1056 and all involved in the planning and execution of this important service improvement. We are sure the patrons on these lines will embrace the service in getting to jobs, worship services, shopping and entertainment. We hope that the future will bring additional restoration in other areas along with the jobs and convenience these services provide.”

"The MTA has mended still another grievous error of its prior administration and found merit in adding service as well," stated Mr. Henry. "These service enhancements and restorations in Queens address the needs of working families, workers, seniors, students who depend on their transit service. We applaud these moves and remind the MTA more much remains to be done to provide the safe and dependable service throughout the system that the riding public needs and deserves."

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[Download the bus schedules; click the linked route number: [Q31](#), [Q77](#); The chart detailing the service restoration and pictures from the news conference follow below.]

Effective Sunday, April 6, 2014 Weekend service enhancements

Q31

Q31 Weekend service restored The Q31 will now operate on weekends as follows: Saturdays 8:20 AM to 8:00 PM; Sundays 9:10 AM to 7:30 PM

Q77

Q77 New Sunday service The Q77 will now provide full weekend service by operating on Sunday in addition to existing Saturday service. Sunday hours are 6:55 AM to 10:09 PM.



Miller (l) and Assemblyman Ed Braunstein (r). Also pictured ATU Executive Board member Al Iano and Recording Secretary Gladys McDaniel, Deputy Borough President Leroy Comrie and Franck Joseph representing Councilman Donovan Richards. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).



Assemblyman Ed Braunstein addressing the news conference. Assemblywoman Nily Rozic and former City Councilman Archie Spigner are at left. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).



Councilman I. Daneek Miller speaking flanked by Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (l), ATU 1056 President Mark Henry and Assemblyman Ed Braunstein. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).



Assemblywoman Nily Rozic speaks flanked by Councilman I. Daneek Miller, ATU 1056 President Mark Henry and Assemblyman Ed Braunstein. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).



Deputy Borough President Leroy Comrie. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).



Community Board 12Q District Manager Yvonne Reddick. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).



Community Board 13Q District Manager Lawrence McClean. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).



former NYC Council Deputy Majority Leader Archie Spigner. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).



Franck Joseph II representing Councilman Donovan Richards. (Photo courtesy ATU Local 1056).