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## **ATU Legislative Conference elects Labor Activist as its new chair**

### **Local 1056 President Mark A. Henry succeeds John Lyons who moved from 1179 to International ATU**

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1056 President/ Business Agent Mark Henry was unanimously elected chair of the ATU Legislative Conference. Henry succeeds former ATU 1179 President John Lyons who recently moved to a position at the ATU International.



Last year Henry became President of ATU 1056 which represents 1700 active Maintenance and Transportation members in MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division and several hundred retired members succeeding now City Councilman I. Daneek Miller last year; the local's members unanimously elected Henry to serve the remainder of his predecessor's term that same year.

Henry previously served three terms as the public transportation local's Vice President, first prevailing in a runoff in 2006. Members of the local unanimously re-elected this staunch defender of workers' rights in 2009 and 2012.

Henry served on the union negotiation team that achieved fair and just contracts for Local 1056 members in October 2014 and May 2012; the 2012 ground-breaking decision – studied and talked about in many arbitration college courses – set a precedent that benefits public employee unions across the United States.

Under Mark's leadership, Local 1056 closed on a new headquarters on Union Turnpike, which, when fully renovated, will offer labor not only a new outpost in northeast Queens but enable the local to better serve members who work in or from depots in Flushing, Jamaica and Queens Village. Groundbreaking is expected this Spring and the local expects the office to be fully operational later this year.

Throughout his career in organized labor, Henry worked in coalition with other labor leaders to effect change, protect and enhance members' benefits, maintain traditional work assignments and empower members. He was a key member of a leadership team that forged

collaborations with other transit unions, management and transit advocates to effect improvements in public transit.

As union vice president, Henry's responsibilities included oversight of the local's operations, policy, contracts and procedures with the MTA, advocacy and negotiation of worker grievances, workers compensation, safety matters, financial issues and contractual compliance. Henry also served as the liaison between his (ATU) Local 1056 membership and management.

Mark began his career in April 1987 as a Bus operator with the New York City Transit Authority. He increased his labor activism in June 2000 when he became Assistant Shop Chairman ultimately rising to acting Chairman for the Jamaica Depot. Building on his prior experience and education, Mark worked to resolve many labor and management issues within the Jamaica Depot. In June 2003, Mark's peers in the Jamaica Depot elected him to represent them as their member of the Executive Board of ATU Local 1056. As Executive Board Member, Henry worked on all aspects of the Local Union business issues that came before the board.

Mark's labor activism extends to national, state and city involvement, including the MTA Coalition of Labor Unions. He also serves as a member of the International ATU's Law committee, ATU Black Caucus, and its Canada and American Conference boards. Mark is a member of the New York State Public Employees Conference Board and the ATU's NYS Legislative Conference Board. This unsung labor-activist and organizer for Queens communities is also involved in community affairs; he was Treasurer for 27th District City Councilman I. Daneek Miller's successful campaign.

Mark studied Psychology at City College-CUNY and attended the National Labor College in Silver Springs, Maryland. Mark has received many certificates and commendations for his achievements in organized labor, workers' rights and community affairs. Mark enjoys traveling, sports and recreational activities with his family and friends.

Henry began his work as conference chair this past month.