

ATU MTA Workers Rally to Tell Pat Foye: “No Zeroes for MTA Heroes” Wed., June 24 at MTA HQ, 2 Broadway New York, NY

Media contact: David Roscow, 202-487-4990

New York, NY – While MTA chief Pat Foye and Board members held their Zoom Board meeting – complete with pre-recorded and screened public comment – on Wednesday, June 24, ATU (Amalgamated Transit Union) New York City MTA workers rallied outside MTA headquarters, demanding Foye stop using the coronavirus pandemic as a cover to create a two-tiered workforce at the MTA. ([View](#) highlights on [Facebook](#).)

At the rally were members of ATU Locals **726** (Staten Island), **1056**, **1179**, and **1181** representing workers at MTA New York City Transit. Combined, they represent more than 5,000 MTA workers working across the boroughs. Speakers included International ATU Vice President Ray Greaves, the President/ Business Agents of each local: Mark Henry (1056; also ATU NYS Legislative Conference chair), Danny Cassella (726), Michael Cordiello (1181) and Jose DeJesus (1179), and TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano.

“Our MTA members have risked their lives to keep NYC moving through this pandemic, civil unrest, hurricanes, snowstorms and every other challenge this city faces. Since this virus hit NYC, more than 100 MTA transit workers have died – including 16 of our brave members,” said ATU International President John Costa. “They call us heroes, but at the bargaining table they expect us to take zeroes. We deserve equal pay for equal work.”

Historically, TWU Local 100 – also representing MTA workers – and ATU Locals have had similar contracts, but after settling with Local 100 in December, Foye is stonewalling ATU Locals by claiming MTA is “not in a position” to negotiate new contracts.

New York Congressional, State and City legislators have publicly expressed strong support for ATU and demanded Foye come to the table and negotiate with ATU. Members of Congress showing support include Rep. Max Rose who coordinated a letter from his colleagues, Kathleen Rice, Jerrold Nadler, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Tom Suozzi, Gregory Meeks, Grace Meng, Yvette Clark, Carolyn Maloney, Jose Serrano, Nydia Velazquez, Eliot Engel, Adriano Espaillat and Lee Zeldin.

State legislators include Senators Leroy Comrie who coordinated a letter (in progress) from his colleagues, Tim Kennedy, John Liu, Toby Ann Stavisky, Sen. Diane Savino, Brad Hoylman, James Sanders, Jessica Ramos, Andrew Gounardes, James Gaughran, and Roxanne Persaud, and Assembly Members (Assistant Speaker) Félix W. Ortiz, Peter J. Abate, Jr., David Weprin, Michael Cusick, Assemblyman Edward Braunstein, Mike Miller, Jo Anne Simon, Dan Quart, Rebecca Seawright, Inez Dickens, Mathylde Frontus, Alicia Hyndman, Nily Rozic, Nicole Malliotakis, Aravella Simotas, William Colton, Brian Barnwell, Karines Reyes, Joe DeStefano, and Steve Stern.

New York Council Members include I. Daneek Miller chair of the Civil Service and Labor committee who coordinated the council letter, Minority Leader Steven Matteo, Francisco Moya, Carlos Menchaca, Fernando Cabrera, Adrienne Adams, Barry Grodenchik, Rory Lancman, Deborah Rose, Robert Holden, Paul Vallone, Helen Rosenthal, Costa Constantinides, Diana Ayala, Inez Barron, JAlicka Ampry-Samuel and Justin Brannan.

The ATU played a key role in helping secure almost \$3.8 billion in emergency funding for the MTA through the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES)* Act. The agency can use the CARES Act funding to pay workers and keep service running for frontline workers. In



addition, they can purchase N-95 masks, gloves, other personal protective equipment (PPE) for transit workers, and additional cleaning and sanitizing supplies.

International Vice President Ray Greaves

Since the outbreak began, ATU has been at the forefront of demanding transit agencies, private contractors and elected officials move quickly to deliver needed protections and policy changes for keeping transit systems running and workers safe. Among the ATU Safe Service demands are gloves, masks, protective barriers, pandemic leave, rear door entry, on-site testing, hazard pay bus operator barriers, air flow changes and filters, and other critical measures.



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ATU 1056 President Mark Henry, chair of the ATU NYS Legislative Conference



TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano



Lenore Friedlander, SEIU 32BJ Special Assistant to President Kyle Bragg



ATU Local 726 President/ Business Agent Danny Cassella



ATU Local 1179 President/ Business Agent Jose DeJesus



ATU Local 1181 President/ Business Agent Michael Cordiello



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2020

Patrick J. Foye
Chairman and CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

John Costa
International President
Amalgamated Transit Union
10000 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20903

Dear Mr. Foye and Mr. Costa:

We are writing to urge you to adhere to long-standing tradition and fairness by negotiating in good faith for an equitable contract for MTA workers represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) on Staten Island and in Queens. We understand that the MTA and ATU have yet to agree on a renewed contract, despite the MTA reaching an agreement with its largest union, Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100, in January. Pattern bargaining has been a consistent feature of transit work in New York more broadly and will provide stability for our workforce throughout the current pandemic in which so many transit workers have risked their lives.

New York City has of course been at the epicenter of our nation's coronavirus outbreak. During these dark days, one bright light has been the selflessness of our transit workers. While many New Yorkers sheltered in place at home, these essential workers have reported to work each day, making sure that our transit-dependent constituents can get to the doctor, the grocery store, and the pharmacy. Without them, many of our exhausted doctors and nurses would not have been able to get to hospitals and save lives. The number of MTA workers killed by the coronavirus now stands at more than 120, and thousands have been infected because they are continuously exposed to large crowds of transit riders at close range, driving buses with major air flow issues.

Simultaneously, the MTA has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, with tollbox revenues plummeting and increased expenses associated with sanitizing the transit system increasing. We were proud to secure supplemental funding for the MTA to address these revenue shortfalls and to prevent service cuts, and support providing these workers with necessary hazard pay and benefits for the families of those who die in the line of duty. We therefore ask that you come to an agreement that will provide equitable benefits to all of New York's transit workforce.

TWU's members in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx were rightfully called heroes during the pandemic and are due the 2.3% average raise over four years provided for in their contract. We ask that their brothers and sisters in ATU who perform the same work on Staten Island and in Queens receive an equitable contract. We urge you to honor the MTA's tradition of pattern bargaining. As we did in the CARES Act, we will continue to lead the way in the fight for transit funding to ensure that MTA has the resources it needs to pay its workers fairly and safely operate the world's greatest transit system.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



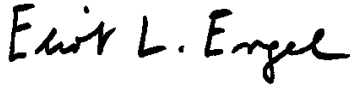
Max Rose
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



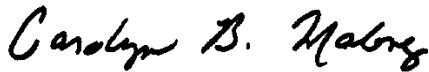
Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress



Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



José E. Serrano
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

LEROY G. COMRIE
14TH SENATE DISTRICT

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ALBANY

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RULES

July 1st, 2020

Patrick J. Foye | Chairman and CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Chair Foye:

We write to you and the MTA Board to express, in the clearest and strongest possible terms, that it is imperative that the MTA follow long-standing tradition and precedent by offering MTA workers represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) on Staten Island and in Queens the same contract as their colleagues in the other three boroughs. This is a tradition born of equity and fairness and it sends a tangible message that all of the Authority's workers are essential.

At present, it is our understanding that the MTA has not extended the benefits of its January contract with its largest union, Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100, to the rest of the City's transit workforce. If ever there was a time to continue the rational and fair system of pattern bargaining this is it—the COVID-19 Pandemic has once again proved the mettle, heroism and dedication of the Authority's workforce—these essential workers have reported to work each day, making sure that our public transit-dependent constituents can get to the doctor, the grocery store, the pharmacy and other truly essential destinations.

The number of MTA workers killed by the coronavirus now stands at more than 120, and thousands have been infected because they are continuously exposed to large crowds of transit riders at close range, driving buses that can harbor contagion. All levels of Government have worked to provide the MTA with supplemental funding to address revenue shortfalls and to prevent service cuts, and providing workers with necessary hazard pay and benefits for the families of those who make the ultimate in the line of duty. Given the dedication and resilience shown by the workforce, including the ATU, we respectfully ask that you move immediately to extend fair benefits to all employees of the MTA system.

As you recently said after a moment of silence at the agency's virtual board meeting, "We will never forget the dedication, service and sacrifice of these brave men and women." While TWU's transit members in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and the Bronx are rightfully being called heroes during these horrific times and are due to receive a modest 2.3% average raise over four years, their brothers and sisters in ATU who perform the same work on Staten Island and in Queens are being denied those same benefits. This type of unfairness cannot stand if New York is to live up to its reputation as a state where labor, sacrifice and public service are

LEROY G. COMRIE
14TH SENATE DISTRICT

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STATE OF NEW YORK
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RULES

honored, especially for those who work for the greatest public transit system in the world.

We appreciate your consideration and indulgence and invite you and your staff to reach out directly to discuss this matter further.

Yours In Service,

Leroy Comrie
District 14 | Queens

Current list of additional signers:

Senator Tim Kennedy
Senator Brad Hoylman
Senator James Gaughran
Senator James Sanders, Jr.
Assemblyman Edward Braunstein
Assemblyman Michael Cusick
Assemblyman Brian Barnwell
Assemblywoman Mathylde Frontus
Assemblyman Joe DeStefano
Senator Diane Savino
Assembly Member Félix W. Ortiz
Assembly Member Aravella Simotas
Assembly Member Alicia Hyndman
Assembly Member Karines Reyes
Senator John Liu

Senator Toby A. Stavisky
Senator Andrew Gounardes
Senator Roxanne Persaud
Assemblyman Dan Quart
Assemblyman David Weprin
Assemblyman Mike Miller
Assemblywoman Inez Dickens
Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis
Assembly Member Jo Anne Simon
Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright
Assembly Member Peter J. Abbate, Jr.
Assembly Member Bill Colton
Senator Jessica Ramos
Assembly Member Steve Stern
Assembly Member Nily Rozic



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Patrick J. Foye
Chairman and CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

July 1, 2020

Dear Chairman Foye,

As members of the New York City Council we stand united today in calling on the MTA to extend to its Staten Island and Queens workforce represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) the same contract terms as received by their colleagues represented by Transport Workers Union (TWU) Local 100.

With over 120 MTA workers killed by COVID-19 and as New York strives to recover, rebuild and reopen, we must honor the past contributions of these workers and support their future efforts. Many of these individuals were essential employees and all deserve to be afforded the dignity of their labor. Fairness calls on the MTA to compensate these workers accordingly and put them - our bus drivers, mechanics and others - on equal footing with their colleagues based in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan. The MTA must put its words into action and act on the sentiment you expressed at a recent MTA Board Meeting to “never forget the dedication, service and sacrifice of these brave men and women”.

As our City supports the MTA through revenues, contributions and our workforce, we expect the MTA will in turn provide due consideration to the needs of our City and working people, particularly during this moment of crisis. We look forward to your response and urge you to honor pattern bargaining and make this workforce whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "I. Daneek Miller".

I. Daneek Miller
Chair, Committee on Civil Service and Labor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven Matteo".

Steven Matteo
Minority Leader



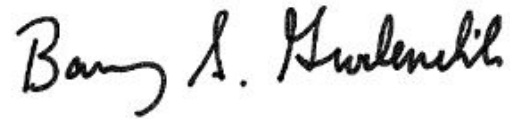
Carlos Menchaca
District 38, Brooklyn



Adrienne Adams
District 28, Queens



Helen Rosenthal
District 6, Manhattan



Barry S. Grodenchik
District 23, Queens



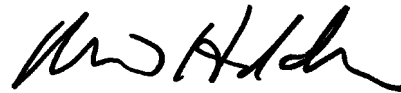
Fernando Cabrera
District 14, Bronx



Justin Brannan
District 43, Brooklyn



Rory Lancman
District 24, Queens



Robert Holden
District 30, Queens



Costa Constantinides
District 22, Queens



Deborah Rose
District 49, Staten Island




Inez D. Barron
District 42, Brooklyn



Diana Ayala
District 8, Manhattan



Paul Vallone
District 19, Queens



Francisco Moya
District 21, Queens



Alicka Ampry-Samuel
District 41, Brooklyn