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I. Daneek Miller, Labor Activist, elected President of Local 1056, ATU

Members of Amalgamated Transportation Union (ATU) Local No. 1056 elected labor activist I. Daneek Miller as their new President on June 11, 2009.

Miller overwhelmingly defeated incumbent Ed Figueroa and will be installed as Local 1056's new President by ATU International Vice President Joseph Welch on Tuesday, June 30, at 10:30 a.m., at the union's General Membership Meeting, St. Theresa's Knights of Columbus Hall, 825 West Merrick Road in Valley Stream, a few blocks east of the local's Rosedale office.

“My priority as President remains what I shared with my fellow brothers and sisters when I campaigned,” stated Miller. “I seek to negotiate a contract that halts diminishing earnings, protects work and maintains the value and integrity of Local 1056.”

Miller, a long-time officer of the union previously served as the Local's Recording Secretary and Political Action/ Legislative Liaison following a term as a member of the Local's Executive Board. Local 1056 represents drivers and mechanics who work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division.

As a union officer, Miller led the Local's fight against Regional Bus, and delivered the Assault and Pension Reforms and Veterans Buyback laws, negotiated its child care program, and coordinated “Fair Contract Rallies” to make sure members timely got important information. As a union activist he organized community to secure one-fare and "hawk" Q83 service to Queens Village and protests to save the Q84.

During the campaign, Miller outlined his goals. Making sure the union communicates with all ATU members, including regular visits to each depot and outreach to Retirees to make sure all members get all the information; reinvigorating the Political Action, Child Care, Member Services committees; ensuring members know of and take advantage of underused special benefits; enhancing each member's quality of life by maximizing the potential of underused programs such as UAP, Child Care, Equity, Education and Technology fund; and maintaining an independent Local 1056.

Even before he formally commenced his campaign, Daneek developed and circulated a survey to obtain the views of the Local's members. Questions included: What concerns you the most about your job? Do you feel that you receive enough information from your local union leadership? What best suits your needs for receiving communication?

