

For Immediate Release: Sunday, February 21, 2010

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## **ATU Local 1056, Queens Electeds, Community Join v. Bus Cuts**

Amalgamated Transportation Union (ATU) Local No. 1056, its President Daneek Miller., Queens elected officials including Member of Congress Gary L. Ackerman, State Senators Frank Padavan and Toby Ann Stavisky, Assembly Member David Weprin, Council Members Leroy Comrie and Mark Weprin, former Council Member Anthony Avella, and representatives of Assembly Member Rory Lancman, Queens civic leaders, including Community 13 Chair Bryan Block and Community Board 8 Vice Chair Martha Taylor, and concerned residents joined with community leaders and concerned residents, come together to oppose the MTA's cuts to Queens bus (and subway) service today (Sunday, February 21, 2010), at noon, at a Q79 bus stop on Little Neck Parkway northwest corner of Union Turnpike in Glen Oaks, Queens. Local 1056 also released the copy (see third page) of a significant ad buy this week to encourage residents to testify at the March 2 MTA hearings.

“There the MTA goes again! This time they want to reduce and eliminate bus service throughout Queens. We cannot let these harmful cuts stand at a time when MTA management takes care of folks at top and perpetuates wasteful policies, practices and projects,” stated Mr. Miller. “Tell the MTA NO! Local 1056 and our elected and community leader allies urge residents testify at MTA’s Queens hearing March 2 against the cuts and for using stimulus funding to fund the operations shortful. Make your voices heard.”



*[Photo Caption - Left to Right: Council Member Mark Weprin, Senator Toby Stavisky, Member of Congress Gary Ackerman, Local 1056 President Daneek Miller, Senator Frank Padavan, Assembly Member David Weprin, Local 1056 Political Action Chair Mel Harris, Local 1056 Vice President Mark Henry. Photo courtesy of ATU Local 1056]*

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State Senator Frank Padavan stated, "Standing riders with no bus service would be a disaster." Referring to the Q79, he added, "it is essential as there is not alternative subway service available in other parts of the City. State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky stated, "Queens residents are struggling in so many ways, whether it's to save their home from foreclosure or economize after a layoff. Eliminating any of these buses would create an additional hardship for many residents who would then need to make multiple transfers that increase the amount of time they must spend commuting, or would have to wait outside in inclement weather or at night. Three of my district office staff members take the Q14 to work every morning. These cuts will isolate residents of the communities they serve not only from the rest of Queens but the rest of the MTA's bus and subway service."



*[Photo – Caption: Notice the signs on the Q70 in the background as Deputy Majority Leader Leroy Comrie speaks. Photo courtesy of ATU Local 1056]*



Representing all hourly rated  
Employees of the Queens Division,  
Who safely Operate and Maintain  
Buses for MTA New York City  
Transit.

*Serving the communities of Queens,  
Manhattan, and the Bronx since  
January 23rd, 1935.*

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Assemblyman David Weprin stated, "Certain cuts proposed by the MTA to address its revenue shortfall makes no sense; and the impacts fall on our young, our seniors and hard-working residents who work off-hours. Whether or not you personally use these transit services, you likely know someone affected, a child, a parent, a co-worker, a neighbor, a worker at a store you shop at."

"The Q79 is a transportation lifeline for the Bellerose, Glen Oaks, and Little Neck and communities," stated City Council Member Mark Weprin.

The current proposed cuts include cuts or eliminations to these buses: Q14, Q24, Q26, Q30, Q31, Q42, Q48, Q74, Q75, Q76, Q79, Q89, QM22, and QM23. Subway service cuts include G, M, Q, W, Z. Local 1056 represents drivers and mechanics who work for MTA New York City Transit's Queens bus division. [The Queens hearing takes place, 6:00 p.m., at Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, Phoenix Ballroom, 135-20 39th Ave., Flushing. Directions: 7 train to Flushing-Main St.; Q12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20A/B, 26, 27, 28, 34, 44, 48, 58, 25/65, 66, QBx1, N20, 21; LIRR to Flushing-Main Street. ]

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# There the MTA goes again!

This time they want to reduce and eliminate bus service throughout Queens.

They want to reduce or eliminate service on the **Q14, Q24, Q26, Q30, Q31, Q42, Q48, Q74, Q75, Q76, Q79, Q89, QM22 and QM23** bus lines.

There could be more bus lines in the future. Your bus could be next. It was our buses that never stopped running during recent snow storms.



**Make your voice heard.**

**Come to the MTA's Queens hearing.**

Tuesday, March 2nd - 6 pm - Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel, 135-20 39th Avenue, Flushing

Tell the MTA to use the almost \$100 million federal stimulus funds they have to prevent cuts in service.\* Six of the ten largest bus and rail systems in the county are using federal stimulus funds to fill budget holes.



**Issued as a public service by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056**

HELP US TO KEEP YOU MOVING.