



The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

Dear Governor Andrew Cuomo & MTA Chairman/CEO Joseph Lhota,

On behalf of The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice, a multi-faith not for profit organization representing approximately 4,000 faith institutions, congregations and clergy leadership throughout the City of New York and Long Island, we oppose the MTA's agenda of expanding 'One-Person Train Operation' (OPTO) and the introduction of Part-Time Bus Operators.

While the MTA currently uses OPTO on shuttles and on the G train during nights and weekends, these trains only use four (4) cars when in operation. Expanding OPTO to full length trains increases the risk to passengers while they are entering or exiting the trains, greatly raises the difficulties and hazards involved if a train must be evacuated in the event of an emergency, and makes it harder for a passenger who needs assistance to obtain it. This is especially important at a time when the level of crime is rising on the subway. We believe that the presence of uniformed conductors on New York City Transit Authority trains is vital for the safety and assistance of the riding public, especially on full-length trains.

We also strongly disapprove of the MTA's desire to introduce Part-Time Bus Operators, which we believe puts the safety of the peoples of our communities at risk as they travel to work or school. Unable to support families on part-time work, these Bus Operators are likely to work two or three jobs. This, in turn, will make them more prone to fatigue and to accidents which will have a significant impact on rider safety.

It must be noted and understood, we vigorously support full-time unionized transit work, which has sustained the families of our congregations and driven the growth of sustainable middle class families in our communities for decades. These jobs are especially important to us because solid jobs with good wages and benefits have largely vanished in NYC. Transit work provides great opportunities for our congregations and communities, and opening up the door to part-time work jeopardizes the long-term economic health of the communities that we represent.

Governor Cuomo and MTA President/CEO Joe Lhota, we respectfully petition that you withdraw your demands to remove conductors from our trains, and that you ensure that Bus Operator's and all other transit employment opportunities continue to be full-time throughout our entire transit system. Our congregations and communities depend on the transit system to support their families, it is the life blood of our local economies and maintaining a reliable and dynamic transit infrastructure is the only way to sustain a vibrant middle class that will keep our city thriving well into the future.

With faith and sincerity,

The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice





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Signed by the following committed religious and faith communities:

The Rt. Reverend Bishop Dr. Raymond H. Rufen-Blanchette, STM, DD, PhD

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The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

Bishop General Secretary & Prelate Consul

United Churches for Kingdom Building

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The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

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The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

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The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

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The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

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The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

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The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

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The Clergy Campaign for Social and Economic Justice

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