



# What a Difference 6 Months Makes

On January 15, 2012, TWU Local 100 had three choices:

- *Strike* • *Sign a contract with three zeroes and other major givebacks* • *Refuse to make concessions and keep working to win a fair contract.*

There is no way we were going to accept 3 zeroes and the Executive Board recognized last fall that a strike was not an option. The leadership decided to be forthright by not setting a strike deadline. The third choice was to keep fighting management's giveback demands and to keep building pressure on Cuomo and the MTA to agree to a fair contract.

*Six months later, it's clear that was the right choice.*

Early this year, TWU Local 100 launched a campaign to show that the MTA Can Pay. We highlighted hundreds of millions of dollars in the MTA budget that could be used to pay for a fair contract. We challenged the MTA to renegotiate interest rate swap agreements that have produced windfall profits for major Wall Street banks. And we exposed the enormous waste that passes for business as usual at the MTA. By the late spring, this campaign had been very successful. In fact, based on some of the evidence we uncovered, the arbitrator who settled the 2009 – 2012 contract between the MTA and the ATU (covering the buses in Queens and Staten Island) reached the conclusion that, yes, the MTA can pay.

TWU Local 100 also worked closely with community groups throughout the city to push the MTA to restore service that was cut in 2010. This alliance scored important wins in August when the MTA Board voted to restore and expand bus service in Brooklyn and maintain the extended G line service. Through this work, we



have increased job security for transit workers and built support among riders for a fair contract for Local 100.

To top the six months off, the MTA announced in mid-July that they had \$90 million more than expected. How many times in the past has our union agreed to contract givebacks, only

to find out a few months later that -- surprise, surprise -- the MTA had more money than they admitted to? Had Local 100 agreed to the MTA's tales of financial woe at the expiration of our contract last January, we would have been hoodwinked by the MTA once again.

While public employees across the state have agreed to contracts with 3 zeroes and massive increases in the cost of medical benefits, TWU Local 100 has not. We have chosen to keep fighting, rather than fold and accept these damaging concessions.

TWU Local 100 is still at the bargaining table and we are determined to win a fair contract for transit workers. We made the right choice on January 15. We will not be tied to an artificial deadline. **When we set a deadline, it will be for real.**

Show your determination to win a fair contract for NYC's transit workers. March with TWU Local 100 in the Labor Day Parade on Saturday, September 8.

For More Info Visit:

<http://bit.ly/twulaborday>