

Memorandum



Metropolitan Transportation Authority

State of New York

Date: February 22, 2019

To: Distribution

From: Fernando Ferrer, Acting Chairman
Patrick Foye, MTA President
Veronique Hakim, Managing Director

Re: Media Reports on Proposed Reduction in Force

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Fernando Ferrer, the Acting Chairman of the MTA.

There is a story in the press today that indicates the MTA is discussing the potential of a significant reduction in force unless we are able to find voluntary savings at each agency. This is nothing new, as agency leadership has warned of this possibility in numerous public statements and testimony over the previous weeks, if we are not able to achieve cost savings and secure additional revenue.

I want to reassure you that we are doing everything possible to avoid this scenario and that it would be a last resort. We have asked each agency and headquarters to make cost cutting recommendations in the coming weeks, and we have made the case to our city and state partners for desperately needed recurring revenues. If we are able to secure sufficient additional revenue and make significant internal reforms, we can avoid these reductions in force and the service we provide to our customers.

Make no mistake, the MTA is in dire financial straits. We have substantial recurring deficits that are growing, not shrinking, and we must act. We watched as our City and its transit network were decimated by budget shortfalls – and budget cuts – in the 1970s when leaders failed to make tough choices in a timely way. Those of us who have been around long enough know what this looks like. And know we must avoid it at all costs.