



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION

OF GREATER NEW YORK • AFL-CIO • LOCAL 100

Anthony Utano
President

Earl Phillips
Secretary Treasurer

LaTonya Crisp
Recording Secretary

Aug. 27, 2020

Mr. Patrick Foye, Chairman
MTA
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10001

Dear Chairman Foye:

Your letter of Aug. 26, 2020 which was sent directly to the TWU Local 100 membership, and to the workers across all the MTA operating agencies, was an outrageous breach of trust between the MTA and the rank-and-file workforce. If it was your intention to intimidate or sow fear among the workers, you have not accomplished those goals.

In fact, you have achieved the opposite.

You have deeply angered your workers, who shed blood, sweat and tears to keep the transit system running during the darkest days of the pandemic, and who watched as more than 130 of their Brothers and Sisters were taken by the disease. Your letter has also steeled them for a war that is coming between the MTA and TWU – and all the unions at the MTA – should you attempt to implement this “doomsday plan” that would destroy the very transit system you are charged with protecting.

So let me make myself crystal clear.

TWU Local 100 will not reopen the contract that was negotiated in December 2019 and overwhelmingly ratified by the Local 100 membership in January 2020. We have received two scheduled raises and our retroactive pay, as called for in this agreement. We have no intention of giving any of that back. We also have no intention of accepting a wage freeze when our next raise is due in May 2021.

We do not accept your defeatist attitude toward the MTA’s fiscal challenges. Local 100, and our International Union, are fighting hard in Washington, D.C. for the funding you say you require to remain solvent, and we will, in fact, redouble those efforts when the Senate returns from recess.

If you want to find real savings, then end all payments to consultants; and suspend all jobs with contractors that can be taken over by your own workforce, including but not limited to cleaning and disinfecting work in stations, terminals and for bus and train rolling stock.

If the best you can do is a plan that is based on worker layoffs and service reductions, then you have already waived the white flag of surrender that will transform the greatest transit system in the world into a tourist curiosity. Go back to work, and find better solutions.

Sincerely,

Tony Utano
President, TWU Local 100