



## A MESSAGE FROM TWU LOCAL 100 PRESIDENT TONY UTANO

# CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY AND THE ISSUANCE OF MASKS AND GLOVES

March 23, 2020

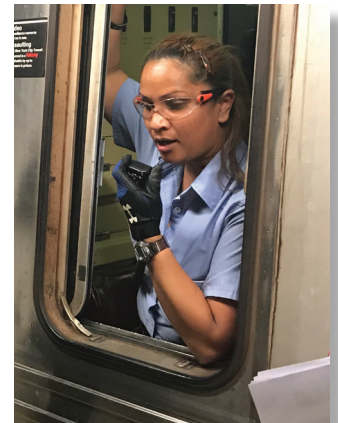
Local 100 members are once again showing everyone in the city and state that transit workers can be counted on in an emergency. You are essential. We've always known that. Anyone who hasn't fully appreciated that truth before should get it now.

As I've said to the media, what you all are doing is nothing short of heroic.

I'm proud of you.

None of us have ever lived through anything like this. It's incredibly difficult. We are concerned for our health and our families' health. It's personal. It's painful.

The hardest thing for me is not being able to hold and kiss my grandchildren. It hurts. I know you are struggling with similar feelings and worries.



### **Masks & Gloves Need to Be Found and Distributed**

My administration stands firmly in support of your right to wear masks and gloves, and the company has agreed to that. While we recognize there is a nation-wide shortage, we are telling MTA leaders they must keep trying to secure supplies for the men and women who move New York. The State is scouring the world for ventilators, masks and gloves. The State has hired companies in New York to manufacture gloves and masks. Masks and gloves will be distributed to TWU members as soon as they are available.



### **Rear Door Boarding for Buses**

We negotiated an agreement with the MTA to allow rear-door boarding to keep passengers at least 6 feet away from Bus Operators. That initiative starts today. We have other ideas we are exploring and we will keep you posted on developments.

