August 3, 2020

A Message from Retirees Association President Mike Tutrone and TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano

Dear TWU Local 100 Retiree,

We hope and pray that you and your family are healthy and safe.

As you know, the COVID-19 Pandemic has taken a terrible toll on transit workers, and the systems we operate and maintain in New York, Florida, and other states across the country. More than 140 TWU of America members have perished, including more than 90 in Local 100. Thousands became sick and recovered while some still have not regained full health. Transit workers are tough. Just as you did during the many crises that befell New York during your days on the job, your brothers and sisters back home soldiered through this blight, and made us all proud. But we have a fight on our hands and we’d like you to join us in action.

The pandemic has decimated the finances of mass transit authorities in New York, Florida, and all across the United States. Ridership dropped more than 90%. Tax revenues have dried up. The agencies calculated they need $32 billion in federal assistance or there will be waves of layoffs, furloughs and service cuts. All of this hurts America’s working families. (The MTA is asking for $3.9 billion to get through the remainder of this year.)

Essential workers like TWU Local 100 bus and subway workers, who continue to work despite the risks to their health, also should be recognized with hazard pay. It’s the least we can do for our heroes who have ensured doctors, nurses, first responders, food industry workers and others who are so vital to the fight against COVID-19 could get to their jobs.

Here’s what we are asking. Send an email, or call, Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott. Please, tell Sen. Rubio and Sen. Scott as a Floridian you support the $32 billion in transit funding and hazard pay for our essential worker heroes in Florida and all over America. They kept the lights on, the food shelves stocked and trains and buses moving.

It’s that simple. That’s all you have to say in your own words. Please support mass transit funding and hazard pay for our essential worker heroes.

The Senate and House of Representatives are currently negotiating the terms of the next coronavirus relief package. Please, take a few minutes to help.

You can email Sen. Rubio by going using this link: https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact
You will find the phone numbers for his Florida offices there too

For Sen. Scott, go to: https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact_rick
His phone numbers are listed under the menu bar “For Floridians.”

In Solidarity,

Tony Utano, President
TWU Local 100

Mike Tutrone
Director of the Retiree Association