



President Tony Utano's 'et al' Grievance Could Relieve 1,000 Transit Workers from Aggressive "Treatment" Program

Union Push-back Scores Win on MTA's Sleep Apnea "Overkill" Policy

TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano has negotiated a settlement to an 'et al' grievance the union filed on behalf of hundreds of members forced into an unnecessarily aggressive treatment protocol designed for those with "moderate" or "severe" Sleep Apnea, even though they had only been diagnosed with a "mild" AHI reading.

(The AHI and oxygen desaturation levels are used to indicate the severity of Obstructive Sleep Apnea. An AHI reading of 5-15 per hour is considered MILD. 15-30 per hour MODERATE, and above 30 per hour SEVERE).

The union's grievance argued that sleep specialists had written opinions stating that those diagnosed with "mild" symptoms did not warrant the aggressive treatment with OSA CPAP breathing machines or other devices. Management finally agreed.

Therefore, members who fall into this category (**MILD**) will no longer be required to go to the MAC for OSA revisits. *(Those who have appointments already scheduled will be informed by their departments or a via a letter from the MTA informing them that their appointments have been canceled.)*

President Utano said of the successful settlement of the Sleep Apnea Grievance:

"I'm very happy that we have been able to settle this grievance for hundreds of our members who felt that the MTA policy was an overkill and created a totally unnecessary inconvenience for those in this group. Those with diagnoses of Moderate and Severe indexes must be treated even though the machines and devices may take some getting used to. A diagnosis of serious apnea shouldn't be ignored. But mild cases don't need the hassle of dealing with the MAC."



Latonya Crisp
Recording Secretary



Earl Phillips
Secretary Treasurer



Tony Utano
President



Nelson Rivera
Admin. VP