



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION

OF GREATER NEW YORK • AFL-CIO • LOCAL 100

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January 5, 2021

Dermot Shea, Commissioner
New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Shea:

As President of Transport Workers Union Local 100, representing 40,000 bus and subway workers in New York City, I'm requesting a meeting, as soon as possible, with you, Chief of Patrol Juanita Holmes, and NYPD Transit Bureau Chief Kathleen O'Reilly, to discuss the onslaught of violence and harassment transit workers are subjected to every single day.

In the 5-month period ending in mid-December, bus and subway workers were assaulted, verbally threatened, spat upon, and otherwise harassed nearly 900 times. That's more than 6 times a day in a system that has drastically reduced ridership due to the pandemic.

On Christmas Eve, a 70-year-old Station Agent in Brooklyn was pushed to the railroad track, in a station that was supposed to have been cleared for overnight cleaning. He suffered a fractured spine and was nearly electrocuted by the third rail.

On New Year's Day, a man smashed the driver's window of a bus in the Bronx and repeatedly punched the Bus Operator in the face and head, leaving her with cuts, bruises and emotional trauma.

The next day, a Station Agent in Manhattan was hit in the head with a baseball bat. Her right eye is swollen shut and she now has seven staples in her head.

With all due respect, many of my members do not believe the NYPD has their back. They say that they never see uniformed police officers on their buses, and that they never see uniformed police officers on subway platforms. They occasionally see officers near turnstiles where they appear focused on fare-beating.

We desperately need a greater police presence and increased safety that can be demonstrated through a reduction in the shockingly high number of attacks.

This outrageous abuse is rampant, and transit workers are incredibly angry and frustrated. I know you share our concerns. I look forward to discussing them further with you and your staff in the near future.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Tony Utano
President, TWU Local 100