

Honoring Bus Operator Edwin Thomas



After almost two years, Local 100 and the Edwin Thomas family finally got a verdict of murder in the second degree. It was a long struggle and, at last, justice has been done. The judge sent the message loud and clear to the public.

We must stand together and honor Brother Thomas and remind ourselves that life is precious.

Our job is to drive our buses safely. It is the MTA's job to enforce their fare policy, not ours. We must not challenge passengers to enforce the MTA's fare, and we must demand protection.

The Union will continue to meet with management to improve secu-

rity so that our members are better protected.

Thanks to all of those who attended the trial and supported Edwin's family. Nobody has gone through more than Edwin's family (*photo inset after the verdict*) and this Union will continue to support his family in the future through the Widows and Orphans fund.

Edwin's family has forwarded their appreciation to us, and we thank them. Our prayers go out to them.

We would also like to send our appreciation and thanks for a job well done to Assistant District Attorney Julie Rendelman. She was a su-



perb prosecutor and she worked very closely and effectively with the family of Edwin Thomas and our Local to make sure that Horace Moore got what he deserved.

We have much work to do to prevent this crime from happening again. Let's remind ourselves that our ultimate goal in life is to make it home in one piece and enjoy our lives with our family and friends.

Cell Phone Penalties to Grow

The MTA cancelled a pilot stipulation that we had been using for two years for cell phones and red lights. With the end of this pilot program we expect the MTA to hammer us with big time penalties. The MTA is fully confident that they can justify big penalties in front of an arbitrator now that there is no stipulation to protect our members. In the past they were having a problem sustaining suspensions and dismissal charges. They were losing those cases so they finally pulled the pilot program to get even with our drivers.

How can we protect ourselves in the street against management abuse? There's an easy remedy to counter anything the MTA throws at us. Don't carry your phone on your person, just like the MTA memo says. Be observant when you are approaching an intersection so you won't get caught by an errant red light, and slow down and stop when in doubt. This is not too hard to accomplish.

We sacrifice too much to have the MTA take our jobs. We have control of our work, not them. So let's all be careful out there and do the right thing.



Sign of the Times

This summer we survived a vicious assault against this Union by the MTA as they attacked us publicly, pushed us to open up our contract to gain concessions, cut runs, and laid off our members for no reason. The MTA stepped up their disciplinary attacks on our operators, and continue to brutalize our work to save money to pad their own pockets.

With all these attacks, we have stood fast, but have felt the pain and continue to suffer as the desk jockeys who call themselves "Labor Relations" foment more ways to get us fired. To put it simple, there is no relations with "Labor Relations" in the MTA. None of them have ever driven Buses/Trains or maintained equipment and they have no clue with what we do on a regular basis in the real world. They are what I consider the leeches of the world and a sorry existence.



With that said, we know that their prerogative is to take money from our pockets and our livelihood away. We must make every effort to prevent them from doing so. We know what our jobs are and how to do it. We are professionals and we should all know how to work the system safely. To do that we all have to co-operate with each other and protect each other out on the road. Driving a bus is not an easy

job. We have to make sure our bus is safe and that we transport our passengers to their destination as safely as possible. With ever increasing passenger loads, headways and traffic, we must learn to adjust and must to preserve our jobs. Being more observant and aware of your surroundings will go a long way to preventing an accident. Performing your job to the best of your ability will prevent a beakie from writing you up and the leeches of "Labor Relations" off your back.

Our struggle is long but not impossible to accomplish. We were taught what to do to get home safe at the end of the day. Most of us have never been written up, so we know how to do our jobs. The less write ups that occur the less of "Labor Relations" the MTA will need and the better the representation on the road. So doing our jobs right goes a long way to getting more out of your Union. Can we all drive safe out there? Yes we can! Let's send the message.

Report: On-the-job injuries

On the job injuries are serious business. You should report them right away if you feel you have been hurt on the job. It is important to let your supervisor know on the first day of your incident. When in doubt contact your Union Rep for advice, but don't hesitate to report it afterwards. Go immediately to the hospital for all injuries. When you receive your IOD paperwork it is important that you fill out and send it in to your supervisor. DON'T forget to sign the differential portion of your paperwork. Mail out the C-3 portion to the State. Make an immediate appointment with a compensation doctor and keep all medical appointments. Keep all IOD, and medical paper work on file for future reference. Get in contact with a compensation attorney as well as your MTA compensation case worker. When you are given an IME (Independent Medical Examiner) appointment, **arrive early and keep all appointments without fail.** When done take your C-4 paperwork immediately to your Depot or work location. You have up to a year to come back with regular IOD injuries. Compensation pays at 40 hours per week. As for assaults, you have up to two years to come back to work as per our Assault Bill **at run pay.** Following these simple

steps will save you a lot of headaches.

The MTA loves to play with your money, and they will not miss a step to give you a hard time. In this business we are susceptible to injuries. Unfortunately they happen every day without fail to our workers. It is our job to protect ourselves and be aware of the dangers around our job. If you have questions about compensation feel free to contact the Union Hall. Ask for the Compensation help line.

WHO YOU GONNA CALL?

2 Broadway

646-252-5549 or 646-252-2925

If you need to speak with someone about a hearing, a contract grievance, or disciplinary charges.

130 Livingston

718-694-4168 or 718-694-4212 For general information and assistance, such as probationary issues, arrests, grievances, sick leave.

Local 100 Member Services

347-643-8061, 8062, 8064 If you have questions about medical benefits.

Local 100 Safety Hotline

888-898-6608 If you need to reach someone on weekends or at night, or for safety matters that need immediate attention.

TWU Union Hall • 212-873-6000

TAS ext. 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042

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