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THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



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ADRIANO ESPAILLAT
SENATOR
31ST DISTRICT

Mr. Joseph J. Lhota
Chairman and CEO
MTA
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

May 31, 2012

Dear Chairman Lhota,

I am writing regarding a very disturbing development that has recently come to light about the mistreatment of an MTA employee at the hands of her supervisor. According to published reports, a 42 year old female employee was licked on her face by a supervisor at the Kingsbridge Bus Depot, which is located in my Senatorial District.

While the incident is appalling and unacceptable for obvious reasons, what's even more disturbing is the fact that the supervisor in question continues to be employed, without any meaningful punishment and that the victim was forced to come in contact with him, even after she had filed a complaint.

Mr. Lhota, this is not a minor incident. It is not acceptable to simply transfer the supervisor to another role, while the investigation is being conducted. The MTA must send a clear, unequivocal message that it will protect transit workers' safety and prevent harassment and mistreatment at all costs. To do so, the MTA must take several steps.

- Suspend the supervisor in question without pay.
- Establish a date by which a swift investigation is completed.
- Report all findings to the District Attorney's Office so any potential criminal charges can be pursued.

Our transit workers work hard and, often, in dangerous conditions. Transit workers – and riders – deserve to know that the MTA and its facilities are not places where harassment and abuse go on without serious consequences.

I urge you to take immediate action to address this very serious matter and look forward to hearing back from you very soon.

Sincerely


Adriano Espallat
New York State Senator

