



TWU LOCAL 100 IN THE NEWS

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NEW YORK POST

Union boss rips City Council member over bus driver arrests

BY REBECCA HARSHBARGER

The union that reps subway workers and bus drivers chewed out a city council committee chairman in a letter for wanting to decriminalize farebeating while the city has been arresting bus drivers for pedestrian crashes.

Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez, who heads the transportation committee, has decided not to back legislation that would exempt bus drivers from Vision Zero legislation passed last year that criminalized crashes with fatalities or critical injuries where pedestrians had the right of way.

“How is it possible that at a time when you and other members of the city council are seeking to decriminalize infractions such as farebeating and public urination, you would stand by idly and allow the arrest of hard-working bus operators?” wrote John Samuelsen to Rodriguez in a letter

obtained by the Post. “You have lost your compass.”

The legislation was introduced by Councilman Daneek Miller, a former MTA bus driver.

“You have forsaken your own constituents and thrown your lot in with brownstone opportunists who are using

investigate, rather than bus drivers who cooperate with cops being taken to local precincts in handcuffs. It says that management requires bus drivers to go through areas where pedestrians have the right of way, even when drivers suffer from blind spots.

“Will the snarky brownstone set who cheers when a MTA bus operator is arrested stand with you when the chips are down?” Samuelsen added in the letter.

Rodriguez said Vision Zero reduced pedestrian deaths last year to the lowest levels in the city’s history, which the new legislation played

a part in.

“The city must explore options like bus rerouting, to lower the amount of left turns drivers make and reduce the number of daily actions that put bus drivers in compromising situations,” he added.

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you to advance their own agendas,” said John Samuelsen, head of TWU Local 100, to Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez in the letter sent on Friday obtained by the Post

The union believes crashes should be treated like accidents while the cops

