



# TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF GREATER NEW YORK • AFL-CIO • LOCAL 100

**John V. Chiarello**  
President

**Carlos Bernabel**  
Secretary Treasurer

**Shirley Martin**  
Recording Secretary

**Alexander Kemp**  
Administrative VP

March 14, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Janno Lieber  
CEO  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

RE: Congestion Grievance

Dear Mr. Lieber:

I write to you on behalf of the men and women of New York City Transit who work in Manhattan below 60th St. From Battery Park to Central Park—or as you’ve designated it—the “Congestion Relief Zone” (CRZ).

In generous terms, your toll on motorists below 60th St. is intended to reduce traffic by redirecting people to mass transit, while collecting \$9 from everyone else who has little or no choice but to drive.

The expected increase in transit service to support this plan has not been realized. You told riders not to be greedy and just be happy with what they’ve got. There are no additional buses or trains in the CRZ for a plan that’s supposed to boost ridership on buses and trains.

Also, you neglected to consider thousands of your own employees who work in the “Relief Zone”, many who work in locations that are not easily accessible by transit. You didn’t think these workers were worthy of an exemption, even while going to and from their jobs.

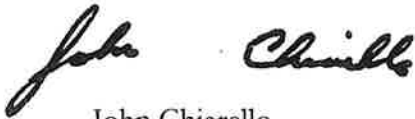
Remember last summer, when the State paused the rollout of congestion tolls? We do. Many workers, including our own members, chose their work assignments based on that information. But a few months later, and right in the middle of the holiday season, you made an announcement that would make Ebenezer Scrooge proud—congestion tolling is back!

So now it’s 2025, your congestion coffers are being filled, and our members who picked work in Manhattan are stuck with the tax. Many are locked into work locations inside the “Relief Zone” and bear its daily burden. Had they been warned ahead of time; they could have utilized their seniority accordingly. Instead, they’ve had their rights violated by the MTA.

It is on that note we in the Transport Workers Union demand “relief”! We seek reimbursement for our members compelled to work in the CRZ, and an exemption from the tolls going forward. We are also open to new job picks across all titles that have reporting locations within the CRZ.

Attached to this letter is our formal grievance on the matter. We are available to meet to discuss favorable resolutions to these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Chiarello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

John Chiarello  
President

cc: Anita Miller  
Demetrius Crichlow  
Aliaa Abdelrahman  
Baimusa Kamara

# CONTRACT INTERPRETATION GRIEVANCE FORM

Grievance Number:

ET AL:

Date Submitted: March 10, 2025

Union: TWU L. 100

Union Representative: See Attached

Employee: See Attached

Title: Various

Dept: Various

Pass: Various

Employee's Mailing Address: See Attached

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: 212 873-6000

Include area code

Cite Contract Section Number, Written Rule or Resolution of the Authority violated:

Various contractual sections: seniority and pick rights.

Statement of Facts, include date(s) of occurrence:

SEE ATTACHED

Remedy Sought:

SEE ATTACHED

ABOVE SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE EMPLOYEE OR THE UNION REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE A HEARING IS SCHEDULED.  
GRIEVANCE MUST BE SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT HEAD OR DESIGNEE WITHIN 30 DAYS OF OCCURRENCE

COPY OF STEP I DECISION TO BE ATTACHED TO THIS FORM

WHEN YOU FILE THIS GRIEVANCE WITH YOUR  
MANAGEMENT COUNTERPART VIA EMAIL. PLEASE  
BE SURE TO CC: [CALENDARS@TWULOCAL100.ORG](mailto:CALENDARS@TWULOCAL100.ORG)

DATE RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTACHMENT

**Union Representatives:** R. Rocco, D. Yates, S. Battaglia, S. Higgins and A. Perez

**Employee(s):** See above, et al.

**Dept:** Various

**Employee Mailing Addresses:** rrocco@twulocal100.org  
dyates@twulocal100.org  
sbattaglia@twulocal100.org  
shiggins@twulocal100.org  
aperez@twulocal100.org

**Description of Grievance:** In January 2025, the MTA instituted Congestion Pricing for all private automobiles entering into Manhattan south of 60<sup>th</sup> Street (the “Congestion Relief Zone”). The MTA chose NOT to exempt its own workforce from the Congestion Pricing Toll, even though, in many instances, there is no easily accessible mass transit option to the workplace(s) that Local 100 members must report. Governor Hochul initially halted the Congestion Pricing Tolls, which coincided/preceded the most recent General Pick, but then she reinstated the Plan – after members had already selected their work locations for the 2025 year. These members are now locked into their locations, many within the Congestion Relief Zone and they are required to pay the Congestion Pricing Toll. The MTA knew that these members would be significantly impacted by the abrupt change in policy direction but offered no relief or alternatives for members compelled to report to locations within the Congestion Relief Zone. As many of these members have significant service with the MTA, their seniority rights and Pick Rights have been violated. Had there been forewarning prior to the 2025 General Pick (and prior) these members could have made alternate selections of their work reporting locations to avoid the harsh effects of the Congestion Pricing Tolls.

**Relief Requested:** Members compelled to report to locations in the Congestion Relief Zone must be reimbursed for the additional tolls they are being forced to pay and hereafter they must be exempt from such tolls. In the alternative, there must be an MTA-wide General Pick encompassing all titles with reporting locations within the Congestion Relief Zone.