



TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION

OF GREATER NEW YORK • AFL-CIO • LOCAL 100

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Transit Contract Talks Break Down

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 14 -- After three days of contract talks, MTA Chairman Pat Foye has only made an already tense situation worse – and talks have broken down.

The multi-millionaire, out-of-touch chairman seems bent on provoking transit workers and leading the MTA into a major, misguided confrontation. Not only did Chairman Foye and his team come to negotiations these last three days unprepared and disorganized, they presented contract demands, including a wage offer, that is worse than the insulting package they gave the union back in August.

The latest set of demands came today just hours after the MTA admitted at its board meeting that it plans on taking approximately \$95 million from the fare box and diverting it to the Capital Program – even though the Capital Program is going to be infused with an estimated \$1 billion annually from congestion pricing.

The MTA is attacking transit workers' livelihoods and cutting service while intentionally starving the Operating Budget, which pays for service, maintenance and other day-to-day expenses.

"These two days of bargaining have actually set us back," Utano said. "Foye presented us with a new set of demands today that are substantially worse than the insulting package he threw across the table three months ago. Foye not only appears unwilling to negotiate in good faith, he is intentionally spoiling for a confrontation."

TWU International President John Samuelson said Foye, who was the Port Authority executive director for six years, doesn't appear up to the task of negotiating a fair contract.

"We're not going to have a Pat Foye Port Authority repeat here," Samuelson. "Port Authority workers languished for years under Foye without contracts. Foye is devoid of reality to think Transit workers will allow that scenario. Foye is deliberately provoking a fight that will reverberate across NYC's subway and bus system."

Mario Cilento, president of the NYS AFL-CIO, said:

"MTA Chair Pat Foye is engaging in bad-faith bargaining with TWU Local 100, and has unfortunately chosen the path of conflict with NYC transit workers. Organized labor in NYS stands behind transit workers 100% and we demand that Foye bargain in good faith."

Foye's team still has not presented the union with information requested months ago, including full costing out of all of its demands and per-worker data on availability.

Examples of Foye antagonizing transit workers and Local 100 throughout the year include: directing police officers to stand over workers punching into work and signing timesheets like jail guards over prisoners; and then writing – and apparently leaking to the press – an email in which he accused Local 100 President Tony Utano of promoting a "drug scam," and insinuating that Utano's Italian heritage predisposed him to corruption.

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