

united transportation union



ANTHONY SIMON
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June 16, 2009

Ms. Helena E. Williams,
Interim Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Ms. Williams,

I am writing in regard to the recent *New York Post* article and follow-up stories and responses concerning MTA workers' overtime earnings.

As the General Chairman of the largest Labor Union on the Long Island Rail Road, it is my duty to convey how outraged I am on how the media has repeatedly portrayed our railroad employees in a negative manner. The *Post* went so far as referring to some of our most experienced and valued mechanics as "grease monkeys." This is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated without a fair response. I am aware you and your staff share the belief that such terminology is derogatory.

Yet, the LIRR blamed "antiquated work rules in collective-bargaining agreements" as the reason why some earnings are excessive. This implies guilt or wrongdoing by union workers. That is unfair and unacceptable.

It is time the public learns about the sacrifices and dedication our employees put forth day in and day out. While the agency has stopped hiring and cut spending in every way possible, the remaining employees have answered the bell and continue to provide the same quality service by doing more with less. Union workers have provided record breaking on-time performance and customer satisfaction numbers over the past year, while being criticized by the media and MTA critics.

Railroad employees who offer themselves to long workdays and six or seven day workweeks should not be criticized for the money they earn to provide the service required. These same employees sacrifice priceless time with their families, while taxing their bodies, to perform the work that is required

Ms. Helena Williams

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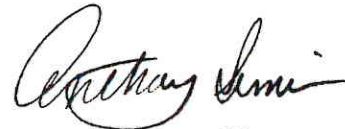
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to repair and move trains on the largest and safest railroad in the nation. In addition, the few salaries often listed by the journalists in our area do not reflect the great majority of base salary employees in our system.

Conductors on the front lines, carmen working to keep our equipment clean and in good repair, track and B&B workers working to keep our rail and structures safe and secure, all deserve the same respect and dignity they come to work with each and every day.

As the interim leader of the MTA and the President of the LIRR, I am asking you to use every resource available to defend and protect the integrity of the employees who make our railroad great. As a union leader, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect the membership and remind both agency leaders and the public as to the dedicated work union members provide each and every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Simon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anthony Simon
General Chairman

cc: R.J. Kenny
M. Capone
S.M. Drayzen