

Court Issues Restraining Order Preventing Strike, Lockout; Sets Hearing for July 25

(July 6) A Superior Court judge issued a temporary restraining order, today, preventing an immediate strike by transit unions or a lockout of union workers by the MTA. The judge scheduled a July 25 hearing at which she is expected to extend the injunction for the full 60 days allowed by law.

Judge Dzintra Janavs' action will bring the parties back to her court in 19 days for an update on negotiations. If she issues the expected injunction, it will extend the cooling off period through Sept. 3.

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LABOR
CONTRACT
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"The MTA appreciates the action taken by Gov. Gray Davis to secure a court order..., " the MTA said in a statement released today. "The MTA is hopeful in the next two months it can reach agreements with its major labor unions...The governor's intervention gives us more time, but does not let anyone off the hook."

Contracts expired June 30

A two-month reprieve would take negotiations past the Democratic National Convention, scheduled to be held in Los Angeles, Aug. 13-17. Contracts with the UTU, ATU and TCU expired at midnight, June 30. Members of the UTU and ATU have authorized their leaders to call a strike.

Davis convened a special Board of Investigation, June 29, to look into the MTA's labor situation. In a July 5 letter to Atty. Gen. Bill Lockyer, Davis said a report issued by the Board "make(s) clear that a strike or lockout will significantly disrupt public transportation service and endanger the public's health, safety, or welfare."

The Board's report said a transit strike would "...disproportionately affect...poor and minority communities...MTA estimates that it will lose as much as \$1 million per day during a strike, the downtown business district will lose \$1.5 million per day, and MTA employees and vendors will lose at least an additional \$1 million...In addition, MTA estimates that the environment will see an increase of 65 tons of additional pollution each day."

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