

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** (Sept. 29) This letter from MTA Board Chair Yvonne Burke was presented to UTU General Chairman James Williams on Thursday, Sept. 28.

Dear Mr. Williams,

During the last five months, the MTA has submitted more than 50 proposals to the United Transportation Union in our attempt to negotiate a new contract for bus and train operators. To date, we have not received a reasonable response that addresses UTU's concerns about our proposals or an offer to settle the strike.

On behalf of the MTA Board and on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of MTA customers who have been stranded by this strike, I formally request the following:

1. That the UTU submit a comprehensive proposal outlining what the union leadership requires to end this strike. The Board believes that with a comprehensive offer before us, we can work with our management and UTU to fashion a solution to this strike.
2. That the UTU agree with the MTA to call in a federal mediator. We believe a seasoned expert in mediation, with a background in the transit industry, can help move these negotiations along before we reach an impasse.
3. Allow our employees to come back to work while these negotiations continue.

I urge you to act on our request immediately. Our employees and our customers deserve nothing less.

Sincerely,  
Yvonne Brathwaite Burke

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