

EDITOR'S NOTE: In this letter mailed Thursday to the homes of UTU members, CEO Julian Burke describes the MTA's "last, best and final" contract offer. Attached to the letter was a [summary of the offer](#).

October 12, 2000

Dear MTA Operator:

We recognize that this prolonged negotiation and subsequent work stoppage have resulted in hardship for you and your families, as well as the 450,000 people who depend on our transit services. Since the strike began, there has been virtually no progress in negotiations. Therefore, the MTA has concluded that we have no option other than to take the important step of declaring an impasse and presenting the Union our best final offer.

The Union leadership's refusal to accept our last, best and final contract offer has caused us to communicate the offer directly to you, our employees. Attached you will find a summary of the offer that we believe is fair and achieves the goals set by both sides.

This offer contains:

- ☒ 9.3% total wage increase; 3% over 3 years, compounded annually for all operators
- ☒ 1% pension pickup resulting in an *additional* 1% in take-home pay for full-time operators
- ☒ Maintains current health benefits, with option for increased MTA contributions if necessary
- ☒ Includes employee protections contained in Senate Bill 1101 regarding zone issues
- ☒ Promotes all current BDOF operators to part-time operators
- ☒ Allows for modest efficiency changes to enhance MTA competitiveness and to increase UTU job security

We, and hundreds of thousands of people who depend on transit service, are eager to bring you back to work and to get the buses and trains rolling. **Please contact your Union representatives and encourage them to accept this last, best and final offer.** We look forward to welcoming you back to work under the terms and conditions described in the attached summary.

Thank you,
Julian Burke
Chief Executive Officer

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