



NEWS

**STATEMENT BY MTA CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER JULIAN BURKE
OCTOBER 4, 2000**

Last night, the MTA made a contract offer to the bus drivers' union that broke new ground and included significant improvements in employee's current pension contributions. It was a very good offer – good for our employees, good for our customers and good for taxpayers. We think that if the drivers had been given an opportunity to consider this offer, they would have returned to work.

UTU leadership had an opportunity today to present its membership with this deal to end the strike. Instead, UTU leaders used the meeting to prolong this strike and cause additional hardship for the people in our community who depend on public transportation to get to work, to school and to medical appointments.

It is time for the UTU to deliver on its promise to give the MTA its complete proposal to end this strike – which for the past weeks and months they have refused to do. We hope they do that today.

***CONTACT: RICK JAGER/MARC LITTMAN (213) 922-2707/922-2700
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS***