

ANTHONY SIMON
General Chairperson

VINCENT TESSITORE
Vice General Chairperson

MICHAEL DENN
Secretary



GENERAL COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT 505
200-B West Main Street, Suite 3, Babylon, NY 11702
Phone: (631) 661-3500 – Fax: (631) 661-2180

Local Chairpersons:

D. AMENDOLARE
J. CASTALDO
E. CHINO
M. DENN
J. FINN
A. LAVORATORE
C. LEATHERS
C. SMITH
V. TESSITORE

July 11, 2022

RE: ONBOARD TRAIN SAFETY

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Local 645 & 1831:

There has been an increase in onboard harassments, disorderly behavior and even assaults on our trains directed toward our crews. As we all know, we are living in a “post covid” time where our nation has been challenged with social, fiscal and political divide that has created public tension and unrest and has elevated in our system. *It is incredibly important that you all know that your safety has always been the first concern of your union leadership, and this increasing issue has become our Organization’s top priority.*

We are engaged in weekly meetings with the MTA Police, Transportation leadership and MTA PBA representatives and reviewing all reported cases to determine any procedural issues that may need to be addressed and to ensure cases are followed up as well as any necessary improvements are made to support our crews. While there has been an uptick in cases, more arrests are being made then ever before and employees that properly report legitimate threats or acts against them are being supported by all the necessary parties involved. Train patrols have been increased and problematic trains have been targeted as resources allow. We have taken the lead on the commuter rails to support and push for legislation that will toughen laws for more severe harassment cases against our workforce which will provide law enforcement better options to detain and arrest disorderly riders. We are working with the MTA PBA and MTA leadership to fight for much needed dedicated train patrols to add police presence ONBOARD our trains as policing has become more of a challenge today than ever before and requires the proper resources to keep everyone safe.

With all this said, we need to keep ourselves safe! We need to work together as crews to be prepared and there for one another in any challenging situations. While fare collection is still an important part of our job to protect revenue and our collector assignments, we need to know when to separate from any potentially dangerous situations and report it as per the rules. Collect and know when to walk away and call. We need to make timely reports of any criminal behavior so MTA police can follow up accordingly. We will get through this spike together through hard work and dedication to our craft. Reach out to us as needed. Report and document as necessary and call in all threatening and disorderly situations that may result in physical harm to passengers or crew. You are professionals and we have no doubt we will stay safe together.

Fraternally yours,

     
Anthony Simon, Vincent Tessitore, Dominick Amendolare, EJ Chino, Jeff Finn, Chris Smith