

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:

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

March 27, 2023

Re: Member Safety

Dear Sisters & Brothers:

On the morning of March 23, 2023 two of our brothers were assaulted working an Atlantic Terminal bound train. They sustained injuries and were treated and released from a hospital in Brooklyn. This incident, while more serious than most, is one of several assaults that have transpired onboard our trains over the past years. Union leadership was present with our brothers at the hospital, and remain in close contact with them as they recover from the incident. One assault, is one too many, and your Union leadership has made your safety the highest priority, while recognizing the responsibility of conductor craft work. While some may question Union leadership's actions both prior to and after this incident, this letter is designed to inform you of what we all would hope you know we do on a daily basis.

Unfortunately, the MTA Police Train Patrol Unit that has been adopted with our Organization's push for action and funding was on the train where this incident took place the day prior. We have worked daily and held weekly meetings with high level MTA PD Commanding Officers to fine tune and adjust trains to target during these tough times. Our relationship with MTA Police Chief Mueller and the parties needed to pursue convictions and strong follow up to any incident has been solid. Local Chairperson's Chino and Valdemira, Local 645 Vice President Brian Grant and myself, stood before the Judge in Brooklyn Criminal Court the evening of March 23rd and into the morning hours of the 24th to face the man who attacked our brothers and plead to the Court to hold him on bail. While they did hold him on bail for a second day, due to the criminal's age and circumstances he was released the next day. We have worked with the District Attorney Office's in our region to hear us on any cases that come their way and now are starting to see jail time and railroad bans for past criminals. Of course, there is more to do, and the fight never ends to pursue legislation and changes to hold these perpetrators accountable. That includes supporting the right candidates to support that cause regardless of political party, while juggling all our other needs. Our members need not assume or be misinformed that your Union supports any one political party. As I have said at countless Union meetings, we support those who support our railroad interests.

As a reminder, fare collection is a huge component to our craft work. We rely on it to keep our trains well-staffed and to secure fare box revenue for our future. To clear up any misconceptions, any attempt to pursue a fare that creates a dispute that you feel may potentially lead to a more serious confrontation; abandon it! Use the rules to protect yourselves at all costs, while not abandoning your overall responsibilities to collect.

Incidents like the one on March 23rd are equally concerning for our responsible and good riders. They need to feel safe and see us working as most of them support us. We need to continue to empower our craft.

Our members also need to know that fare collection audits, follow up manager visits and any confrontations regarding failed fare collection incidents, should not intimidate any member to push the envelope and risk their safety. Any member who remains visible, ensures that trains are fully collected and documents any incident where they truly cannot collect will be protected by our representatives to the fullest extent our CBA allows. Additionally, any member who is confronted by management for prioritizing their safety in lieu of collecting a fare should reach out to us for immediate follow up. Do your jobs, embrace the craft work, while never feeling a lack of support from your Union.

Lastly, if in fact any of you feel that your union leadership is not doing enough, which I emphatically would deny, or think we can do something different or better; Call us! Reach out to your representative. While I would never deny anyone's right to post on social media, posting irresponsible comments or dangerous suggestions on how to work is a true danger to our membership and our craft. While some may feel their choice of social media outlet is secure, it is not, and my never-ending suggestion to not talk shop on social media remains.

On behalf of myself and your elected union representatives, I assure you our work never ends. Your safety always comes first and the future of your craft has to be protected more now than ever before. Stay safe, stay together and please have faith in your leadership.

Fraternally yours,

Anthony Simon

Anthony Simon

General Chairperson