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To: All TWU Local Presidents and All International Staff

As you are aware, the Executive Board of Local 100 voted 28-10 (6 abstentions) to conduct a system wide bus and subway strike in New York City, rather than continue bargaining with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

I, along with TWU's General Counsel, have participated in direct negotiations with the MTA side by side with Local 100 officers.

We are in agreement with the Local 100 negotiating team that the MTA's "final" offer is inadequate and that our members deserve more. But we do not agree with their decision to strike, which is illegal under New York State's public sector law (Taylor Law), and which potentially carries massive fines against both the union and all striking members. I relayed this position, as well as my concerns over the impact of the Taylor Law on the membership, at the aforementioned Local 100 Executive Board meeting.

Last week, New York State Supreme Court Justice Theodore T. Jones issued two preliminary injunctions against both the International Union and Local 100 aimed at preventing a transit strike. Earlier this morning, that same judge heard arguments from the State Attorney General regarding his request for the court to issue a contempt of court order for violations of the injunctions.

We will keep you informed of all important developments.

Michael T. O'Brien
International President

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