



"Freedom Through Organization"

LOCAL 85

AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 17, 2023

Sisters and Brothers.

Over the past two years, we've faced many daunting and unprecedented challenges, not the least of which was maintaining safe and uninterrupted mass transit to the citizens of Allegheny County during a once in a generation worldwide public health crisis. Part of achieving the success we had during this period were the *fifteen* jointly negotiated COVID 19 agreements to keep everyone working and safe. However, as you know, in March of 2022, PRT went it alone and unilaterally imposed a vaccine mandate upon us. At every turn, whether it was the injunction we sought, the unfair labor practice charges we filed and the over 320 grievances we processed, this Local steadfastly disagreed with and therefore challenged PRT's decision to unilaterally implement the COVID vaccine mandate.

Based upon the continued efforts of the entire Local 85 leadership to address this issue, I am happy to report that within the next two weeks, PRT will be rescinding its vaccine mandate in whole. We understand this has been a long and often contentious process, not only with PRT but within and among our membership. Part of the process that led to the rescission of PRT's vaccine mandate was the negotiation of a Global Settlement Agreement resolving all COVID 19 related disputes between ATU Local 85 and PRT. While we all share different personal views and individual perspectives regarding the issues surrounding COVID 19, the leadership of this Local is charged with representing the interests of ALL Local 85 members and therefore to act in the best interest of the Local. The Global Settlement Agreement achieves this goal.

Over the next week or so, all employees who were terminated under PRT's mandatory COVID 19 vaccine policy will be receiving a letter from PRT offering reinstatement to employment. In order to explain all the details of the Global Settlement Agreement and answer any questions you may have, we are calling a special meeting for **August 31, 2023**, at the Union Hall. There will be a morning meeting at 10:00am and an evening meeting at 3:00pm.

We look forward to seeing you.

In solidarity,

Ross Nicotero III

