



"Freedom Through Organization"

LOCAL 85

## AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION

2022 CHATEAU STREET      PITTSBURGH, PA 15233

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September 21, 2020

### NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS ATU LOCAL 85

*Re: Statement from Local 85 officers regarding November pick*

Dear Union Brothers and Sisters:

As you know, the ongoing pandemic has presented unique challenges for Local 85, its membership, the Port Authority's operations, and the public at large. During these difficult times, Local 85 has continued to advocate tirelessly on behalf of you, the hardworking Union men and women who provide essential services for the public and make this Union strong. Local 85 has focused and will continue to focus on doing all that it can to ensure the health, safety, and prosperity of our membership and their families.

Local 85 also aims to keep you informed and provide you with up-to-date and accurate information. To that end, the Union is aware that some of you may be concerned, given the current climate and decreased ridership, about how the November pick might affect you. The Union would like to alleviate some of those concerns and provide you with accurate information. **Most importantly, the Port Authority has repeatedly assured the Union that none of the changes resulting from the November pick will result in any layoffs or facility closures whatsoever.** The Port Authority will be implementing some changes, modifications, and reallocations to meet service needs related to temporarily decreased ridership. However, the Authority has made crystal clear and reiterated time and time again that **no one will lose their job and no facilities will be closed** as a result of these changes and the November pick.

For some additional background information, Ted Kielur recently scheduled and attended a series of schedule committee meetings with all Local 85 transportation executive board members and Port Authority management present. After two days of meetings and given the current climate, the Authority decided that several runs would be reallocated, as an adjustment to service needs and forced overtime ("plussing") would be reduced. We believe the above changes constitutes a system pick and we expressed our position to Port Authority.

Although the Union strongly disagreed, Port Authority management also decided to eliminate approximately 48 rosters spots. Local 85 vows to continue fighting to have these spots reinstated as soon as possible. The Port Authority has stated that it will increase the frequency of trips if and when ridership increases. In the maintenance department, the annual system pick will go into effect on September 27, 2020 with 119 vacant positions.

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On a separate but significant note, we strongly encourage all members and retirees to make a charitable contribution to the United Way. Given all of the difficulties we have endured and the trying times that lie ahead, generosity and caring for others is more important than ever. We also encourage you to make a donation to Mon Valley UE – 822. Barney has done so much for our membership over the years and we need him now more than ever.

Local 85 will continue to advocate on your behalf and keep you updated on any further developments. In the meantime, rest assured that there will be no layoffs in November.

In solidarity,

STEPHEN M. PALONIS  
President-Business Agent

SABATINO DI NARDO  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

THEODORE A. KIELUR  
Asst. Business Agent, Operators

JEFFREY S. DI PERNA  
Asst. Business Agent, Maintenance