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April 27, 2020

His Worship John Tory
Mayor of Toronto
Office of the Mayor
City Hall, 2nd Floor
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I'm writing to you because Toronto's transit system is facing disruptive service cuts and layoffs unless you fight for immediate emergency financial support from your counterparts in Ottawa and at Queen's Park.

As you know, the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) is being pushed past its financial breaking point and facing a steep \$90 million drop in monthly revenue because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The TTC is now planning to temporarily lay off 1,200 of its essential workers, including 1,000 Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 113 members.

A lack of urgency from senior levels of government to shore up municipal finances and provide emergency financial support has brought us to the brink. As the President of ATU Local 113 representing 12,000 TTC workers, I can assure you that this is a serious problem for our public transit system.

Make no mistake – the announced layoffs mean service cuts for Torontonians. These cuts have consequences for essential, low-income workers who depend on the TTC to get to work at hospitals, nursing homes, grocery stores and pharmacies. Service cuts go against physical distancing and will lead to overcrowding on many routes, which increases risk for spreading COVID-19 to those who are most vulnerable in our city. These cuts could also mean a transit system unprepared to handle the surge of regular riders once it's safe for everyone to go back to work.

The livelihood of our dedicated public transit workers is hanging in the balance.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, public transit workers have been working tirelessly and putting themselves in harm's way to keep Toronto moving. As of today, 25 of our members have tested positive for COVID-19 and hundreds more are protecting others by self-isolating because of it.

For weeks during the pandemic, TTC workers, including operators, maintenance, clerical, cleaning and other support staff asked for – but were denied – the right to wear basic protective masks to protect themselves and others against COVID-19. In the face of the risks, they kept working. It took our union's

persistent demands for the TTC to finally allow the choice for workers to wear PPE on the job. It took even longer for the TTC to finally supply basic PPE to workers during this pandemic.

The Ontario government announced a temporary pandemic pay of \$4/hour on top of regular wages for frontline workers. Public transit workers, who are providing a frontline service during the coronavirus crisis, are excluded from the program. Healthcare and other essential workers deserve pandemic pay; however, we cannot forget about public transit workers. Instead of receiving pandemic pay for their dedicated service during the crisis, over a 1,000 TTC workers will soon receive pink slips. Some of these workers might have gotten sick on the job and are now being laid off on top of that. I know you'll agree this is unfair.

You can help stop this today by working with the provincial and federal governments to provide emergency financial support to prevent these layoffs and keep the TTC's buses, streetcars, Wheel-trans vehicles and subways running for essential workers who need it most.

Please act now before it's too late.

I look forward to hearing back from you soon.

Yours sincerely,



Carlos Santos
President, ATU Local 113

CS:rc

cc: TTC Chair Jaye Robinson (Ward 15, Don Valley West)

Councillor Michael Ford (Ward 1, Etobicoke North)
Councillor Stephen Holyday (Ward 2, Etobicoke Centre)
Councillor Mark Grimes (Ward 3, Etobicoke-Lakeshore)
Councillor Gord Perks (Ward 4, Parkdale-High Park)
Councillor Frances Nunziata (Ward 5, York South-Weston)
Councillor James Pasternak (Ward 6, York Centre)
Councillor Anthony Perruzza (Ward 7, Humber River-Black Creek)
Councillor Mike Colle (Ward 8, Eglinton-Lawrence)
Councillor Ana Bailão (Ward 9, Davenport)
Councillor Joe Cressy (Ward 10, Spadina-Fort York)
Councillor Mike Layton (Ward 11, University-Rosedale)
Councillor Josh Matlow (Ward 12, Toronto-St. Paul's)
Councillor Kristyn Wong-Tam (Ward 13, Toronto Centre)
Councillor Paula Fletcher (Ward 14, Toronto-Danforth)
Councillor Denzil Minnan-Wong (Ward 16, Don Valley East)
Councillor Shelley Carroll (Ward 17, Don Valley North)
Councillor John Fillion (Ward 18, Willowdale)
Councillor Brad Bradford (Ward 19, Beaches-East York)

Councillor Gary Crawford (Ward 20, Scarborough Southwest)
Councillor Michael Thompson (Ward 21, Scarborough Centre)
Councillor Jim Karygiannis (Ward 22, Scarborough-Agincourt)
Councillor Cynthia Lai (Ward 23, Scarborough North)
Councillor Paul Ainslie (Ward 24, Scarborough-Guildwood)
Councillor Jennifer McKelvie (Ward 25, Scarborough-Rouge Park)