

November 18, 2016

Thomas F. Prendergast
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairman Prendergast,

I write today in response to recent security concerns brought to my attention regarding security, or lack thereof, at Staten Island's bus depots. As you know, on Wednesday the Yukon Bus Depot was evacuated for two hours after a GPS device was found attached to one of the buses. While the origins of this device are not yet clear, what is evident is that it is far too easy for an unauthorized individual to enter the depot, and that 24/7 security personnel, as well as physical safety improvements, are a necessity.

Currently Staten Island has four bus depots: Castleton, Yukon, Charleston, and Meredith Avenue, yet two (Castleton & Yukon) are only partially protected by MTA security personnel. The security that is present at the Castleton & Yukon depots are only on site from 10 PM – 6 AM and at only one of multiple entrances. Given the immense value of MTA property contained in these depots, it is concerning that around the clock security is not employed at all four locations.

Within the last few months, an employee had his personal vehicle stolen from within the confines of the Castleton Depot in daylight hours. While this appears to have been an isolated incident, I believe that around the clock security would have prevented this brazen crime.

We find ourselves in a time of uncertainty, with terror attacks on so-called "soft targets" taking place across the globe. Certainly, an unsecured and unguarded bus depot makes an appealing target for a would-be attacker. A lack of security puts employees, MTA property, personnel, and the general public at risk.

I respectfully ask you to consider the above request for 24/7 security personnel as well as physical safety improvements at the Castleton and Yukon bus depots. I believe that these facilities are of enormous importance to your agency, employees, and to the people of Staten Island, and they must be properly protected. I look forward to discussing this matter further, and urge you to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Cusick
Member of Assembly