



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

P.O. Box 2622, New York, NY 10108
www.mcb4.nyc

LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

January 12, 2021

Patrick J. Foye
Chairman
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Sarah Feinberg
Interim President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Re: MTA Policy on Station Workers Handling MetroCard Transactions

Dear Chairman Foye and President Feinberg,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its January 6th Full Board meeting voted, by a vote of 40 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to request a re-evaluation of the MTA policy on Station Workers handling cash and cards.

The MTA and Transport Workers Union Local 100 (TWU) announced in March that cash transactions (excluding reduced-fare purchases) would be conducted using MetroCard Vending Machines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy change was enacted in an effort to protect Station Workers.

Since the reopening of New York City, banks, grocery stores, retailers, restaurants, and other food service operations have resumed cash and card transactions. There hasn't been any evident correlation between the handling of cash/cards and viral transmission. Safety procedures, such as employees' use of disposable gloves, frequent handwashing, and sanitation mitigate workplace risks. The CDC's guidance on Transit Worker safety does not preclude the handling of cash/cards.

According to FEMA¹, those most likely to be dependent on cash include “...the elderly, those with physical or mental health disabilities, and those who use cash to manage budgets and avoid debt.” With these transit users in mind, we respectfully request that the MTA review current policies regarding Station Workers for cash and card handling. Perhaps the policy going forward could change to encouraging transit customers with the ability to use vending machines to continue to use them, while providing in-person transactions to those who need them.

Sincerely,



Lowell D. Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Christine Berthet
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee



Dale Corvino
Co-chair
Transportation Planning
Committee

¹ https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_covid_bp-monetary-transactions.pdf
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/transit-maintenance-worker.html>