



[www.atu308.org](http://www.atu308.org)

Robert Kelly, President/Business Agent  
**AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 308**

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Marilyn Perkins-Hooker, Secretary-Treasurer  
Kim Mitchell, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
Bryant Alexander, 1<sup>st</sup>. Vice President  
Eric Dixon, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Vice President

To Our Customers:

The members of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308 have the privilege of providing you with CTA rail service. We value our jobs and the excellent service that we are able to provide you.

We apologize for the upcoming service cuts which will make your commute to work, school, and shopping more difficult. These cuts will result in the layoff of over 100 of our ATU Local 308 brothers and sisters and over 1,000 of ATU Local 241's members working on CTA busses. You know—and we know, too—that this is an extremely difficult time to lose a job and we are pained by these layoffs of workers who have no personal responsibility for the lack of proper funding of your transit system. We fear that the funding crisis will be repeated in the near future and that there will be more service cuts and layoffs—unless we have a permanent funding source for the CTA. We want the CTA to get a fair share of the public funds available for transit. You should, too. And we pledge to work hard to get CTA the permanent funds that you deserve so that CTA can operate an efficient transit system. Chicago is a great city and deserves a well-funded transit system.

You may have read that the CTA'S claims that it can avoid these service cuts and layoffs if the unions make concessions to the labor contract that has been in place since January 2007. **You should know that the CTA'S claim is not true.** The CTA's budget estimates are not believable. And it is just not reasonable to eliminate the shortfall by taking it all from CTA employees. Local 308 agreed to sit down with the CTA to discuss both the short-term and long-term funding issues that will prevent the February 7 service cuts and layoff and any future service cuts and layoffs. **Local 308's members do not believe the CTA has discussed these issues in good faith.**

**Local 308 and Local 241 came up with a number of creative ideas to save the CTA millions without violating our contract. The CTA flatly refused to discuss these ideas. Instead of really talking with the unions, the CTA chose to insult our members with a series of proposals that the CTA knew could never work. Honestly, we believe that the CTA never intended to reach an agreement!**

Sadly, our discussions were doomed from the start by the vicious cuts in pay and benefits that the CTA proposed. And the CTA could not guarantee that concessions would prevent another round of service cuts in the future! Our willingness to work with the CTA to be creative in finding a solution— and to eliminate waste in management and politically connected and over-priced vendors — was intentionally blocked by the way the CTA approached the layoffs and our contract.

The public does not know that the CTA deliberately sent out over 1000 more layoff notices than it knew it needed to send. Either the CTA was incompetent or it deliberately punished over a 1000 employees who deserved a better holiday season than worrying about a layoff that would never reach them.

Neither explanation is satisfactory. We need an effective management team, not a team working against a better CTA.

We need you to contact your Congressman to ask for more federal grants. We need you to let CTA know that you want a fair and reasonable CTA and the rail and bus service that you and the City of Chicago deserve. Call President Rodriguez at 1-312-681-5000 and let him know you want the service cuts cancelled. We need you! Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Kelly".

Robert Kelly  
President ATU Local 308