



June 3, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We write with grave concern and growing outrage over the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) \$35 million contract with Allied Universal Security Services. This Pennsylvania-based private firm was hired under an opaque and highly questionable process to deploy armed guards across New York City's subway system under the guise of addressing fare evasion. This secretive deal, recently brought to public light through investigative reporting by the *New York Post*, demands immediate scrutiny and prompt action by your administration.

Fare evasion has long been a serious financial drain on the MTA and, more importantly, our residents. Current losses are estimated at nearly one billion dollars annually, which is an indefensible hemorrhage of taxpayer and rider funds.

Yet instead of implementing sound, transparent, and accountable solutions, the MTA has unilaterally opted to funnel tens of millions of public dollars into a no-bid or poorly publicized contract with an out-of-state private security firm. This is a decision that raises alarming red flags and must be dealt with.

Since the deal's inception in 2022, the number of Allied Universal guards deployed has inexplicably doubled to over 1,000. Recent and credible reports now reveal that many of these guards, who are being paid as much as \$100 an hour, have been caught sleeping on the job, loitering in diners, or worse, enabling the very fare evasion they were hired to stop by holding doors open for non-paying riders. This is unacceptable and simply outrageous.

It is clear the public and the Legislature have been misled. We demand immediate and full transparency and a comprehensive and independent accounting of this program. Specifically, we expect prompt, detailed answers to the following:

- Who was responsible for approving this contract, and under what terms was it negotiated?

- What is the total amount expended to date, and what are the projected future costs?
- What legal authority, if any, do these guards have to enforce fare payment?
- Who oversees these contractors, and what critical systems of accountability are in place?
- How has this contract impacted union workers and existing MTA personnel?
- Why was a Pennsylvania-based company selected instead of in-state options that could have supported New York jobs and allowed for better oversight?

These questions are not rhetorical. They were formally raised on May 19, 2025, during the Senate Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions by Ranking Member Senator Mario R. Mattera.

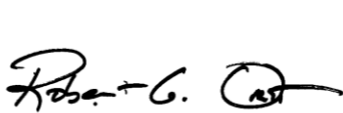
At a time when the MTA continues to squeeze New Yorkers through Congestion Pricing, increased Payroll Mobility Taxes, and constant appeals for state and federal bailouts, the public has every right to expect transparency along with responsible use of their dollars.

Given the MTA's long and troubled history of bloated budgets, mismanagement, and cost overruns, this is not just a matter of concern but a matter of public trust.

New Yorkers deserve more than insincerity, deception, failed promises and unsuccessful programs that waste their hard-earned money. They deserve leadership that puts them first. They deserve accountability that satisfies their questions. Clearly, they deserve truthful answers from an authority that has a history of failing to deliver and we are demanding they get it.

We expect your administration to treat this matter with the seriousness it demands and respond to these inquiries without delay. The people of this state deserve nothing less and we intend to ensure that they are heard.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort  
Senate Minority Leader  
62<sup>nd</sup> District



Senator Mario Mattera  
2<sup>nd</sup> District



Senator Dean Murray  
3<sup>rd</sup> District



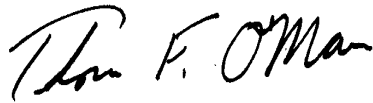
Senator Alexis Weik  
8<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Anthony Palumbo  
1<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Steve Chan  
17<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Tom O'Mara  
58<sup>th</sup> District



Senator George Borrello  
57<sup>th</sup> District



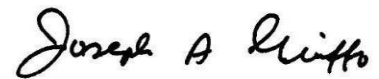
Senator Daniel G. Stec  
45<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Peter Oberacker  
51<sup>st</sup> District



Senator Rob Rolison  
39<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Joseph Griffo  
53<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Patricia Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick  
9<sup>th</sup> District



Senator William Weber  
38<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Mark Walczyk  
49<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Andrew Lanza  
24<sup>th</sup> District



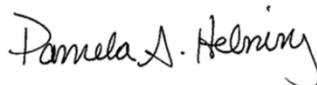
Senator Jack. M Martins  
7<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Jake Ashby  
43<sup>rd</sup> District



Senator Steve Rhoads  
5<sup>th</sup> District



Senator Pam Helming  
54<sup>th</sup> District