

**Communications
Workers of America**
AFL-CIO, DISTRICT 1

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Christopher Shelton
President

Dennis G. Trainor
Vice President
District 1



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

June 15, 2020

By Email

Honorable Bill de Blasio
Mayor of the City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio:

We write to make you aware of our strenuous opposition to a proposal, recently reported on in the news media, to move Traffic Enforcement out of the NYPD and back into the Department of Transportation.

The Communications Workers of America represents approximately 3,000 Traffic Enforcement Agents and Supervisors, members of Locals 1182 and 1181 respectively.

While we strongly support proposals to reform the NYPD and its policing practices, and while our union has been deeply supportive of the protests that have swept the nation in the aftermath of George Floyd's murder, our Traffic Enforcement members feel extremely strongly about retaining their status in the Police Department.

As you know, relations between the union and the NYPD have not always been smooth. In particular, we believe that the Agents and Supervisors remain severely underpaid, given their role as First Responders—a role that has been highlighted during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Nevertheless, serving as members of the NYPD confers an important degree of respect and authority upon the Agents and Supervisors. These agents fought for many years to achieve uniform status. Wearing the uniform of the NYPD, we believe, reduces the public's inclination to assault agents, who in spite of their status in the NYPD, suffer roughly 100 assaults per year. We believe this problem would worsen if the agents lost their standing as members of the NYPD.

Moreover, the agents would see any transfer to the DOT as a downgrade in the importance of their jobs, and as the last straw of disrespect from the city.

Finally, shifting the TEAs from one city agency to another would do nothing to advance genuine reform of the Police Department. It would represent merely a cosmetic budget cut, designed to facilitate politicized claims of significant reductions in the NYPD's funding and authority. It will have no impact on the real changes that genuine advocates of reform, like you, understand must be implemented in order to achieve fundamental police reform. Shifting the TEAs to DOT would make these already low-paid and ill-treated workers simply a pawn in an unfortunate game of sound-bites around police reform.

We are pleased with initial indications that shifting the TEAs will not be one of the cost savings sought in the City Council's budget proposals. We look forward to working closely with you to work towards real police reform. But we urge you to reject any proposal to shift the TEAs out of the NYPD.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis G. Trainor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Dennis G. Trainor