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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Reaches Agreement with Teamsters to Avert Metro-North Strike

MTA Executive Director and CEO Elliot G. Sander and Teamsters Local 808 Secretary-Treasurer Chris Silvera today announced a contract agreement that will likely eliminate the possibility of a Metro-North Railroad strike this year. The agreement is expected to be ratified by union membership on June 22.

"We are extremely pleased to announce this agreement, which effectively ends the possibility of a strike this year," said Sander. "We overcame a number of longstanding issues this year in reaching terms with all of the unions, and I truly believe we are turning over a new leaf in terms of labor relations at the Railroad."

"We are 21st century railroad workers and this agreement will bring us into the 21st century," Silvera said. "If you think we're good now, the future is even brighter."

The agreement with the Teamsters covered the final 601 employees still without a contract, and is expected to run through July 2010. The other approximately 4,100 represented employees ratified contracts in April and May. While the details of the contract are being withheld pending ratification, both Sander and Silvera acknowledged that the agreement dealt with a number of issues important to each side, including salary parity, furlough issues and work rules. The MTA's commuter railroad unions are not covered by the Taylor Law, and if no agreement had been reached a work stoppage was possible in July. Sander said that the agency was about to begin strike preparations when the agreement was reached.