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Press Release

May 31, 2007

NYC Transit

IMMEDIATE

Statement on Bus Operator Dress

MTA New York City Transit's uniform policy permitting female bus operators to wear pants or culottes but not skirts is based primarily on the issue of safety. Driving a bus requires the performance of several duties, including the adjustment of mirrors on older model buses and safely securing wheelchair customers. Wearing a long skirt while performing these and other duties could pose a serious safety hazard.

Several years ago, NYC Transit tested the use of a uniform skirt. However, it was rejected at that time due to safety concerns. It was determined that the skirt was very restrictive, becoming entangled beneath the bus operator and interfering with the use of foot-operated controls (accelerator, brake and turn signals). Additionally, it was noted that skirt adjustments required the operator to remove one hand from the wheel while also detracting from the bus operator's ability to focus completely on driving.

All student bus operators are informed of the dress policy at the beginning of the orientation process and at that time are required to acknowledge this protocol with their signature.