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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

### MTA New York City Transit Ulmer Park Bus Operator Hero

#### *Comes to aid of purse-snatching victim*

Ulmer Park bus operator Anthony Mocerino was waiting for repairs to be made to his bus when just a few feet away, a purse-snatcher assaulted a woman during a brazen daylight robbery. Unable to just stand by and watch, the veteran bus operator ran him down, caught him and then handed him over to the police. For his actions, Mocerino was honored at this morning's meeting of the MTA Board.

A bus sitting on the street waiting for a service truck usually does no one any good, but on the afternoon of January 19th, a purse-snatching victim in the Coney Island section of Brooklyn was glad that Anthony Mocerino's bus had traveled just about as far as it could go.

After learning of the bus operator's actions, Senior Vice President of Buses Joseph Smith said that he understood how difficult it would have been to just stand by and watch a mugging. "It obviously never occurred to Bus Operator Mocerino not to get involved," Smith noted. "He acted in the best tradition of NYC Transit, coming to the aid of someone who needed assistance and for that we all owe him our gratitude."

Assigned to the Ulmer Park Depot, Mocerino, 42, and seven year NYC Transit veteran, was working the B36 when a body panel fell off of his RTS. Pulling over to the curb at West 37th Street and Surf Avenue, Mocerino secured his bus, asked his customers to be patient and then called into Bus Command to report the condition of his vehicle. "I was waiting for the service truck when I heard a woman screaming for help," Mocerino explained. "I looked out the door and I saw a woman struggling with a young man and then he pulled away with her purse and started to run off."

In what Mocerino described as a reflex action, he ran of the bus and sprinted down the block after the thief. A few steps away from the bus, he spotted an undercover cop. Apparently, the thief did too because he dropped the bag and made a quick u-turn--right into the arms of the veteran bus operator.

"This was really no big deal. I handed him to the officer, checked on the lady and returned to my bus. I just couldn't sit there and let that happen without doing something. It wouldn't have been right."

Called to court and prepared to testify, Mocerino only had to give a statement when the suspect made a full confession. "This was the second time that he was caught doing something like this. I hope he gets the message that a life of crime is definitely not for him. More than anything, I hope he uses this incident to turn his life around."