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Press Release

October 27, 2011

[LIRR](#)

IMMEDIATE

Statement by LIRR President Helena E. Williams

"The LIRR condemns any fraudulent activity associated with federal disability pension benefits. In August 2008 when the LIRR became aware of the high rate of LIRR retiree applications, the LIRR asked the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) IG and the MTA IG to investigate. The LIRR has cooperated with the U.S. Attorney's Office, the New York State Attorney General's Office, the MTA IG's Office and the RRB IG's office in their investigations of fraudulent disability pension applications. We support their efforts to root out fraud. This important benefit should be reserved only for those disabled members of the railroad community who truly deserve it. Federal disability benefits are funded by railroad employer and employee payroll taxes across the United States. We hope that today's actions by the U.S. Attorney will send a strong message to those who seek to defraud this important federal program."

Background:

The occupational disability program is a federal program administered by RRB in Chicago, and LIRR does not receive, review or approve the applications. The LIRR cooperated with the RRB in implementing an 2008 action plan in their attempt to address this issue. Further, the LIRR entered into an agreement with the New York State Attorney General for an independent examination of LIRR's efforts to develop a robust program to deter fraudulent applications.

Editor's note: [Click here for a copy of a letter from LIRR President Helena Williams](#), dated August 28, 2008, referring the disability pension issue to the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board Inspector General and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Inspector General.