

**MOTION BY:**

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**Executive Management Committee Meeting**

March 19, 2015

**Item 55: Safe Space & Sexual Harassment**

MTA's customers deserve to travel in a safe environment without unwanted intrusion into their private physical and emotional space.

Last month, this Board received disturbing survey results that found that 22% percent of our customers experienced some form of unwanted sexual attention in the past six months while riding our buses and trains.

A violation of even one customer's safe space creates an unwelcoming and unsafe environment for all of MTA's customers.

Additionally, despite about 1.4 million average weekday boardings, last year the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Transit Division received merely 99 reports of unwanted sexual attention.

This rate of reporting is woefully low, and indicates that customers do not have faith that such behavior can be addressed.

In April 2015, MTA will launch an outreach campaign in partnership with Peace Over Violence, an organization dedicated to ending sexual, domestic and interpersonal violence. The campaign will target inappropriate sexual behavior, making clear that such behavior is unacceptable, that victims do not and should not tolerate it, and encouraging victims to report unwanted attention to MTA and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD).

MTA also updated its Transit Watch app to make it possible to specifically report incidents of unwanted sexual attention.

MTA deserves credit for recognizing the importance of its customers' safe space and taking action, but more can and should be done to ensure the safety of our customers.

Besides ensuring the safety of existing customers, promoting safe space will also help attract new riders into the MTA system.

To effectively support the safety of our current and potential customers, all facets of MTA's structure must consider safe space.

Furthermore, because safe space is a society-wide issue that MTA cannot solve alone, it is important that MTA give safe space continuing attention.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board instruct the CEO to:

*Task Force*

1. Formalize a multi-departmental Safe Space Task Force, including but not limited to the Communications, Community Relations, Ethics, Human Resources, Information Technology, Operations, Security, and Planning departments.

*Community Input*

2. Convene a community roundtable on issues of safe space and sexual harassment to better connect MTA with its customers and inform MTA's response to these issues.
3. Work with the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to review national and international best practices for safe space in transit.

*External Policy*

4. Update the MTA Customer Code of Conduct to explicitly prohibit unwanted sexual attention and identity-based harassment.
5. Partner with an appropriate local agency or agencies to provide a non-law enforcement support option for victims.

*Internal Policy*

6. In partnership with an appropriate local agency or agencies, review training guidelines for all MTA staff and contract public safety personnel to ensure that staff is properly trained to respond in cases of unwanted sexual attention, including those in which a minor is involved.
7. Utilizing no. 2 and no. 3, review station, bus stop, and transit vehicle design guidelines to ensure customer safety is taken into account.

*Board Reporting*

8. Report to the Board on all the above on a quarterly basis beginning with the April 2015 Board cycle.

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