

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2005

James J. Dermody
President
Long Island Railroad
Metropolitan Transit Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Dear Mr. Dermody

I write today to express my deep concern for the lack of physical security measures installed at Long Island Railroad stations and call your attention the lack of implementation of Department of Homeland Security directives issued to major transit system operators recommending specific measures to prevent and reduce the fallout from a potential attack. In the wake of the Madrid train bombings last year and the recent revelation that the terrorists involved in the attacks possessed sketches and notes about Grand Central Station, I urge you to work to better secure the 124 LIRR station across Long Island that serve almost 300,000 New Yorkers every day.

As you are aware in May 2004, DHS directives called on transit operators to enhance physical security by, among other measures, installing bomb-resistant trashcans, deploying additional police and security personnel, erecting vehicle and pedestrian barricades, and installing closed circuit security cameras. However, according to an investigation conducted by my office, it appears the MTA has made almost no progress toward following the security directives, leaving gaping security holes and putting millions of commuters in danger.

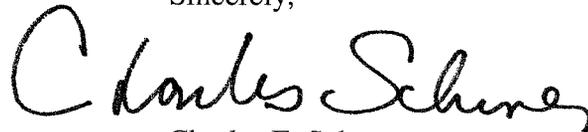
In a survey of 30 of the most heavily trafficked of the 124 LIRR stations in Nassau and Suffolk, none had blast resistant and transparent garbage cans, only 10% were equipped with security cameras, and only 10% were found to have closed circuit security cameras. Of the more than a dozen individual security directives issued, not one has been followed at all 30 LIRR stations surveyed.

Though I realize the directives did not set forth a specific implementation timetable, I am sure you will agree that completing these security measures with all due speed is in the best interests of the riding public. I pledge to continue my fight to ensure the federal government provides the resources necessary to protect our vulnerable mass transit systems and other modes of transportation.

I respectfully request you provide a report on any progress the LIRR and the MTA have made toward better securing LIRR stations in Nassau and Suffolk. In addition, I ask that you include any future plans you may have to better secure both stations and trains, and to protect the millions of New Yorkers who use your service every week.

As we learn of new threats to our state and country, I hope you and the MTA will be more vigilant in beefing up security measures at LIRR stations, Penn Station, and your hundreds of other rail stations, trains, and buses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Charles E. Schumer
US Senator