

# AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION LOCAL 689

2701 Whitney Place, Forestville, Maryland 20747-3457  
Telephone 301-568-6899 Facsimile 301-568-0692  
www.atulocal689.org



JACKIE L. JETER  
President

ESKER BILGER JR.  
Financial Secretary-Treasurer

BRENDA THOMAS  
Recording Secretary

CARROLL F. THOMAS JR.  
1st Vice President

RAYMOND JACKSON  
2nd Vice President

Media Contact: David Stephen  
Phone: (301) 568-6899  
Email: dstephen@atu689.org

*In response to the February 12, 2018 Washington Post article "Metro sends crews to Baltimore to help during subway shutdown," where it was reported that a track maintenance crew was taken away from Metro maintenance work and sent to Baltimore over the weekend, ATU Local 689 President Jackie L. Jeter releases the following statement:*

"The inspection of the Baltimore rail system shows the desperate need for lawmakers to push for more money to be used on repair of all the transit systems in Maryland. Our state's infrastructure has been poorly neglected. We also find it suspicious that WMATA General Manager Paul Wiedefeld continues to bring in unqualified contractors to fix the Metro system here, while sending our qualified maintenance workers to Baltimore to fix the system he spent two years running as it fell into disrepair.

"The fact that WMATA crews were called upon to help rescue Baltimore's collapsed system proves that our exceptional track maintenance crew consistently get the job done and were the first to be called on when Baltimore needed help. Wiedefeld is spending millions on outside contractors leaving our repair crews to go back and repair their shoddy work. The front line workers of Metro stand ready to assist our sister union in Baltimore whenever possible, however, at this time when Metro is in urgent need of dedicated funding to fix and maintain our system, the money allocated for Metro should be spent on Metro and not outside contractors or other rail systems."