



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City of Middletown

CONNECTICUT 06457

Daniel T. Drew
MAYOR

June 9, 2017

Andrew Chiaravallo
Administrator
Middletown Area Transit
340 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Mr. Chiaravallo,

Recently, a multitude of constituents brought to my attention that you had eliminated bus routes in Middletown. The Middletown legislative delegation was also made aware of these complaints. Shortly afterwards, I met with you and our legislative delegation to determine why bus routes had been reduced or changed in any way. To my surprise and dismay, we have discovered more serious concerns facing Middletown Area Transit than the elimination of bus routes. We have discovered serious financial and management challenges threatening the existence of MAT itself.

As you are aware, MAT is a statutorily authorized transit district and is a separate corporate body from the City of Middletown and the State of Connecticut. Nonetheless, while MAT is not a city agency, public transportation is of the utmost concern to the city as is your use of the subsidies we provide to MAT. In order to better understand the nature and extent of the issues facing MAT, I am compelled to seek information critical to understanding the nature and full extent of the problems you face.

My most immediate concern is the disruption of bus routes for our residents. I understand that discontinuing routes without adequate hearing and notice can result in potential violations of federal law. I understand further that MAT will be resuming the reduced bus routes effective Saturday, June 10, 2017. Please confirm, upon receipt of this letter, that all bus routes will operate as regularly scheduled as of this Saturday.

Of much greater long-term concern is the current financial condition of MAT and how it came to that condition. Please submit the following documents no later than Friday, June 16, 2017 to my office for review:

- All board meeting minutes from July 1, 2011 through the present;
- All agendas for that same period;
- All budgets for that same period (in other words, fiscal years 11-12, 12-13, 13-14, 14-15, 15-16, 16-17, and 17-18);
- All audits for that same period;
- Your letter of credit with Liberty Bank, and any amendments thereto;
- Middletown Transit District Bylaws;
- All Collective Bargaining Agreements currently in effect;


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- All contracts with staff, administrators, and all other employees;
- The Middletown Transit District's current insurance policy and any documents evidencing bonding for errors and omissions coverage for officers and directors;
- Any retirement plan documents including plans for executives, drivers, and staff, and if any plan is a defined benefit, rather than a defined contribution, plan, a statement of the percent to which it is funded;
- Any Employee Handbooks currently in effect.

Expediency and transparency are vitally important in this matter. It is unfortunate that MAT did not see fit to inform us regarding any operational challenges facing the organization before the problems rose to levels now affecting our community. As such, it is clear that intervention on behalf of the community is not only appropriate, but necessary.

Please furnish the requested information as soon as possible and no later than the aforementioned date.

Sincerely,



DANIEL T. DREW
Mayor

cc: James P. Redeker, Commissioner, CT Department of Transportation
Richard Andreski, Public Transportation Chief, CT Department of Transportation
Paul Doyle, State Senator
Len Suzio, State Senator
Joe Serra, State Representative
Matt Lesser, State Representative
MAT Board of Directors
Sam Gold, Executive Director, RiverCOG
Common Council
Joe Samolis, Director, Planning, Conservation & Development
Brig Smith, General Counsel