

Presentation of MTA Inspector General **Carolyn Pokorny**

MTA Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 26, 2019



Drain Cleaning at 96th Street

STATE OF NEW YORK



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Subway Flooding During Heavy Rainstorms: Prevention And Emergency Response

MTA/OIG #2005-64

FEBRUARY 2006

Matthew D. Sansverie
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Lawrence Reuter
President
MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

February 6, 2006

Re: Subway Flooding During Heavy
Rainstorms: Prevention and
Emergency Response
MTA/OIG #2005-64

Dear Mr. Reuter:

This Office has completed an audit of how MTA New York City Transit Subways maintenance departments responded to widespread service disruptions experienced on September 8, 2004, as well as the routine maintenance activities that serve to prevent or mitigate such service disruptions. The present report, the first of two related to the storm of September 8, focuses on the drainage infrastructure itself; the problems of trash and silt; the procedures governing workers responding to flooded conditions; the equipment used for emergency response; and the supervisory structures providing control and coordination. A second, forthcoming report will focus on communications provided to customers on that day.

We are pleased by your apparent concurrence with the report's major findings and recommendations as indicated in your response, which is included as Appendix A. We would also like to note the positive manner in which Maintenance of Way senior managers responded to information brought to their attention by auditors and took active measures to rectify a number of weaknesses. While heavy rainstorms will no doubt cause service disruptions in the future, we trust the implementation of these recommendations will help keep down the number of problem areas and the duration of the service outage.

Our audit was performed pursuant to the MTA Inspector General's authority as set forth in Section 1279 of the Public Authorities Law. We thank managers and staff at NYC Transit for the cooperation extended in the course of our review.

Very truly yours,

Matthew D. Sansverie
Matthew D. Sansverie



State of New York
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Office of the Inspector General

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Subway Flooding During Heavy Rainstorms: Prevention and Emergency Response

In the Fall of 2004, a significant rain storm hit New York City just before the morning rush hour causing lasting service outages, train evacuations, long delays and serious platform crowding. This report details our findings including the chances of a similar storm in the foreseeable future, the causes of the flooding and MTA New York City Transit's (NYC Transit) overall preparedness to deal with such conditions. Our recommendations include a call for increases in NYC Transit's cleaning and maintenance programs, the acquisition of new equipment, as well as better communication and information availability to NYC Transit workers tasked with flood response.

We make special note of our findings regarding efforts to deal with accumulating trash and garbage in the subway environment. What has been referred to as "littering" can no longer be relegated to "quality of life" enforcement. Trash and garbage accumulation is a real service and safety threat, one that greatly aggravates service interruptions under storm stress and plays a role in the recent increase in the number of smoky and dangerous track fires. As one transit official candidly conceded, "no one is going to drown in a subway flood, but people could die as a result of a track fire." A customer-based, "Safe and Clean Subway" education and awareness campaign in the subways is an essential prong in the attack on this issue, along with other strategies coordinated to control the effects of garbage in the subway environment.

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

On this date as much as 1.76 inches of rain fell on New York City between 6:31 and 7:51 a.m., as measured in Central Park. We counted at least 15 different locations where flooding significantly affected service during the morning rush hour on the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, A, B, C, D, E, F, M, N, Q, R, V and W routes. On some routes, service was not restored until late afternoon. There were 1,156 reported subway train cancellations, virtually all of them in the morning rush hour. Hundreds of thousands of subway riders experienced long delays and serious crowding conditions, some of which required evacuation of passengers and emergency medical assistance.

Some NYC Transit officials referred to the September 8, 2004, rainfall as a 50 or 100-year storm or as "an act of God," which suggests an event that

Drain Cleaning at 96th Street



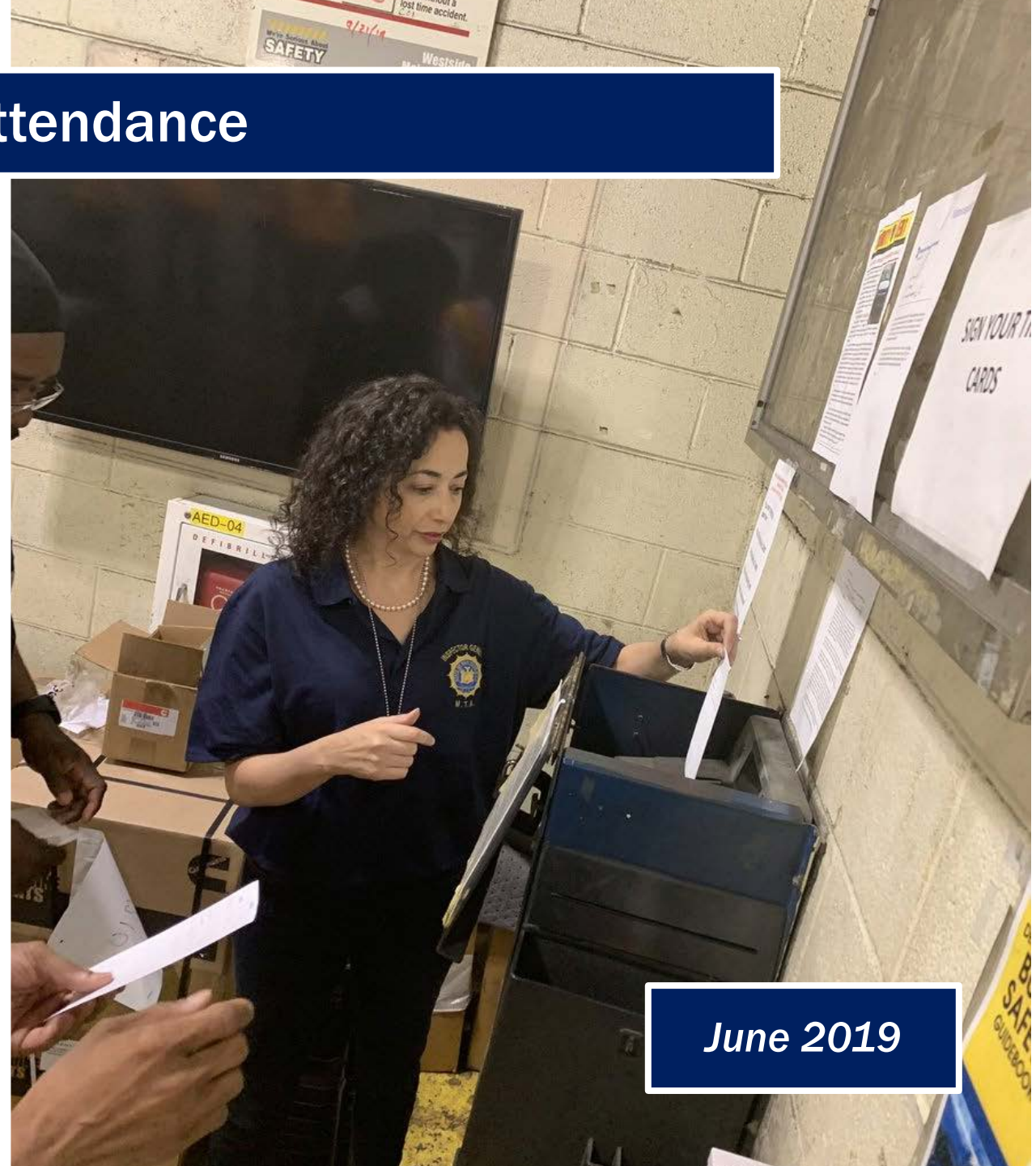
June 2019

Subway Station & Car Cleaning



June 2019

Time & Attendance



June 2019

Time & Attendance



Many important issues for review:

NEW YORK

MTA to subway bosses: Ease up on disciplining train crews for going too fast

METRO



Pair of MTA conductors attacked by riders in separate incidents

By Danielle Furfaro and Gabrielle Fonrouge

March 8, 2019 | 3:01pm | Updated

Fare Evasion On The Rise, Costing MTA Hundreds Of Millions Of Dollars

June 18, 2019 at 1:13 pm Filed

U.S. | NEW YORK | TRANSIT

MTA Commissioners Debate Cost Overruns, Transparency

Concerns raised as Grand Central Terminal project increases by \$1 billion



Tips or Complaints:

Phone: 1-800-682-4448

Email: Complaints@mtaig.org



Presentation of MTA Inspector General **Carolyn Pokorny**

MTA Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 26, 2019



Presentation of MTA Inspector General **Carolyn Pokorny**

MTA Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

