

TWU Strategic Fightback Campaign Secures Local

Transport Workers Union Local 291 scored a huge victory in June when it secured a new contract with a pay increase - and successfully fended off a series of large-scale attacks by Miami-Dade Transit and Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos Gimenez.

Union leaders and Mayor Gimenez reached a negotiated settlement on June 6, thanks in part to a multi-pronged, six-month strategic campaign that Local 291 waged with the full support of the TWU International. Members of TWU Local 291 overwhelmingly ratified the contract on July 23, with a 1,369-80 vote.

The agreement includes:

- 4% wage increase, retroactive to October 2016.
- Union leave for seven members to conduct future contract negotiations.
- Eight shop stewards on full-time company-paid release.
- Weekly and daily overtime for shop stewards.
- Full pay for workers on sick leave and vacation, including shift differentials and overtime premiums.



- Union time pool enabling employees to donate unused leave time.

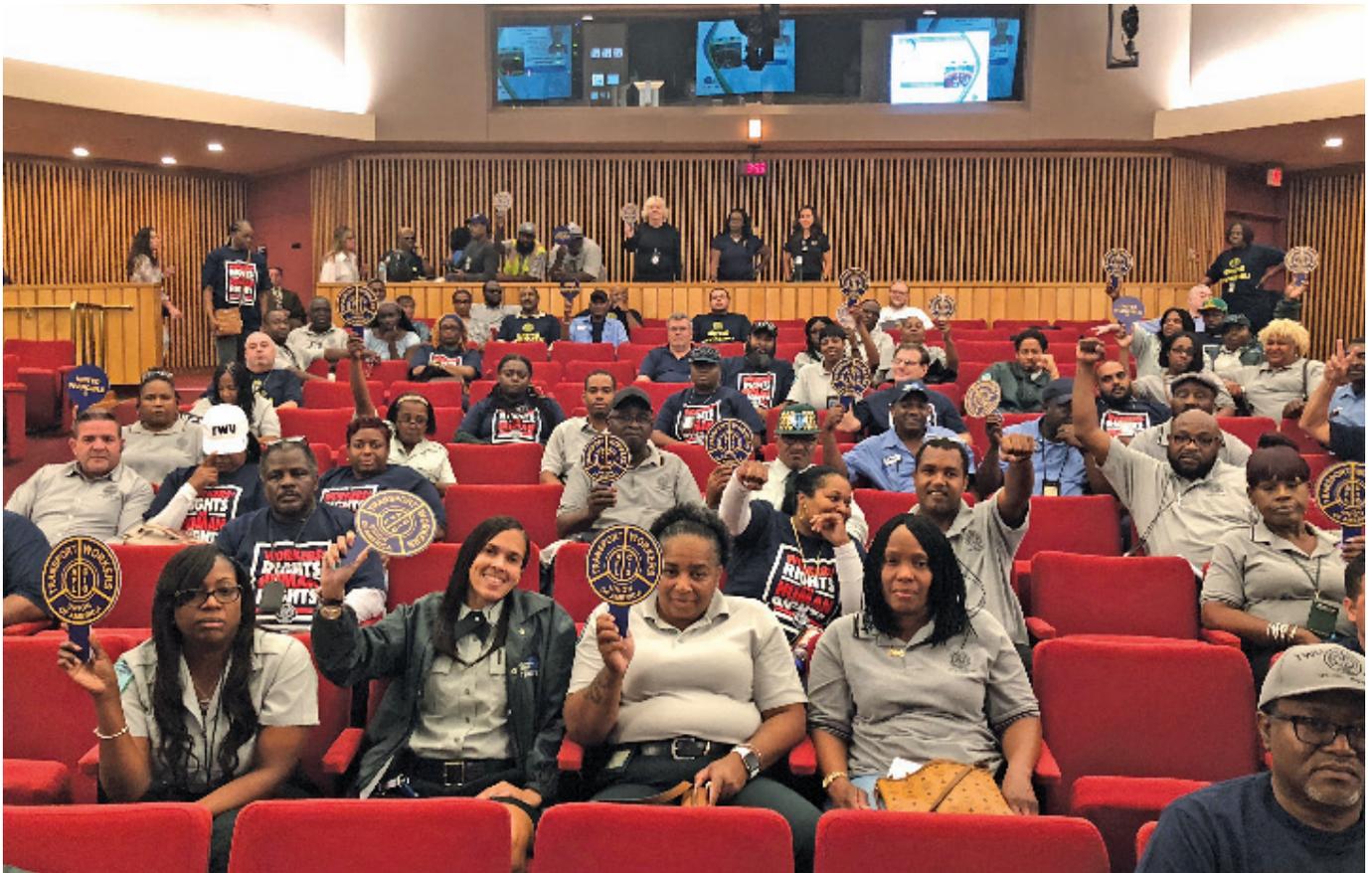
Rank-and-File Mobilization

The foundation of this multi-faceted campaign was rank-and-file mobilization.

But it also involved a wide array of tactics, including: placing blistering full-page newspaper ads in the *Miami Herald* and other publications; writing pointed Op-Ed columns and Letters-to-the-Editor; organizing community support by meeting with members of the clergy and civic organizations; reaching out to elected officials and political leaders; building labor solidarity across the board in southern Florida, and earning free media coverage of the union's

activities, views and criticism of management.

The International assigned a team of professionals to help craft and carry out the plan of action. The team provided expertise in organizing, research and communications.



291 Contract Victory

“This victory is the product of a textbook strategic campaign and demonstrates that we can beat the bosses when we have the courage to stand up and fight back,” President Samuelsen said. “The entire International leadership is committed to defending our members wherever and whenever our jobs are threatened.”

The contract settlement ends a long standoff between Local 291 and Miami-Dade Transit. The last labor agreement expired in 2014. The new agreement covers 2014-2017.

“This was a long battle for our members, but we stuck it out till the end and were victorious,” TWU Local 291 President Clarence Washington said. “Our members are dedicated to their communities and deserve good-paying jobs for the vital services we perform each and every day. Thanks to the power of our Union, we have settled this contract.”

International Administrative Vice President and Transit, Universities, Utilities and Services Director Curtis Tate said, “The Local and International worked hand-in-hand - and there is no better recipe for success.”

“We defeated a relentless attack against Local 291 members by Miami Dade County,” Samuelsen concluded. “The Local and International worked together to defend our members, and this contract campaign is a great example of the necessity to fight back when we are attacked.”



After Six Years of Challenging Negotiations, Local 1400 Ratifies Contract 97% VOTED 'YES'

After six years at the bargaining table, members of Local 1400 overwhelmingly ratified a 10-year contract with the Port Authority of NY & NJ on July 27. An unprecedented 77% of the members cast ballots with 97% voting “Yes” to ratify the contract.

The contract will be in effect until July 27, 2022.

“Thanks to all of you who came out and took the time to vote not just for your future, but for the future of all your local sisters and brothers. Instead of caving in to demands, we all worked long and hard to negotiate an acceptable contract,” said TWU International Secretary-Treasurer Jerome Lafragola. “Local 1400 officers made four commitments from the outset: *No Zeros*, *Retroactive Pay*, *Protect Medical in Retirement* and *Protect Toll Collectors’ Jobs*. The officers never wavered on these declarations to the membership – and that’s why the ‘Yes’ vote was overwhelming.”

CONTRACT HIGHLIGHTS

- Compounded wage increases totaling 29.87% for members with 10 years or more on the job.
- Compounded wage increases totaling 23.69% for members up to 10 years, after their 10 anniversary they’ll receive an additional 5% increase.
- Full retroactivity.
- A \$1,000 signing bonus and an annual \$750 bonus for all active members.
- Healthcare contributions at 2% of base pay starting in 2019, increasing to 2.5% in 2021.
- Maintained full medical and dental for retirees.
- Implementation of Automated Electronic Tolling (AET) – No Toll Collector or Senior Toll Collector, as a result of AET, will be laid off or lose any then-existing base pay or benefits.