



# **TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA**

## **AFL /CIO**

**LOCAL 562**

**AIRCRAFT  
MAINTENANCE / STORES  
Bostons Title II**

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March 27, 2007

## **WORKING TOGETHER**

I would like to take this opportunity to examine the comments of Devon Erriah on the March 19, 2007 issue of "The Facts Exchange". Mr. Erriah implies in his article that the Officers of Local 562 attempted to stop the "Facts Exchange" as well as engaged in an "unwarranted conflict" with Mr. Erriah. Nothing could be further from the truth. Mr. Erriah claims that he was just making an attempt at "joint" communication at our station. The Officers at Local 562 disagree with Mr. Erriah as to what "joint" really means in terms of the JLT process and Labor-Management relations at JFK.

First off, we never tried to stop the "Facts Exchange". As a matter of fact, we thought that it was a good idea. What we did try to communicate to Mr. Erriah was the way he was using our members to publish and edit what in essence was a management newsletter with no input from the Local Union. These issues came to a head when we decided to temporarily suspend our participation in the JLT process and some members of the Local rightfully filed grievances against the editors of the "Facts Exchange", for violating Article 10(h) of the CBA. We do not feel that this was an "unwarranted conflict". This was a clear violation of the CBA.

Since we have resumed our participation in the JLT process, we feel that in order to have a genuinely "joint" communication newsletter, the Union, as well as management need to have equal decision making power in the participation and content of the newsletter. We have since proposed a solution to this problem by asking Mr. Erriah to include the leadership of the Local Union in deciding how to proceed with selecting TWU members for participation in special projects like the "Facts Exchange".

**Until that happens, we feel that the “Facts Exchange” does not represent any sort of “joint” or “working together” initiative.**

**Finally, for any JLT process or workgroup to succeed, management must understand that the Union will insist on participation and equal decision making powers in that process. If we are shut out in any way, it is not “joint” and it is not working together. Management needs to understand that their success depends on us. It is in both parties’ best interests to understand this concept for the future success of American Airlines and its employees.**

**Peter Corabi  
VP TWU Local 562**