



*For Immediate Release: October 24, 2019*

*Press Contact: [press@mtaig.org](mailto:press@mtaig.org)*

## **Press Release: MTA Inspector General Launches Investigation After Two More Reports of Apparent Vandalism of MTA Biometric Clocks**

MTA Inspector General Carolyn Pokorny today announced the launch of an investigation after two more MTA biometric clocks were found damaged in separate apparent acts of vandalism. Today, the Inspector General was alerted that two biometric clocks were apparently vandalized during the past week, including one at an NYC Transit facility in Brooklyn this morning, and another at a Manhattan bus depot.

In the past 5 months, the MTA Inspector General's Office (OIG) has been alerted to six incidents of time-clocks damaged in apparent acts of vandalism. In several instances, OIG discovered front display screens that appeared to have been purposefully smashed, as well as instances of wires of the device being cut and other acts of apparent vandalism.

“This is the sixth biometric clock that has been damaged by an apparent act of vandalism in the past five months, making it clear that this serial sabotage is not just confined to one agency but a systemic MTA issue,” MTA Inspector General Carolyn Pokorny said. “Vandalizing these timekeeping clocks is not just a crime, it is an affront to riders and taxpayers. The MTA Board must act to hold the MTA’s management, at the highest levels, including Chairman Pat Foye, NYCT President Andy Byford, and the heads of the other transit agencies, accountable and ensure that MTA management address this issue immediately. Our office recently completed an audit, the latest in a series of reports by independent authorities, which found that the MTA management lacks an adequate system to verify overtime claims, and recommended these new biometric timekeeping clocks be put in place. New Yorkers must be wondering how the MTA can properly pay its workers at these facilities if the time-clocks installed to track attendance have been damaged in such apparent acts of sabotage. We call on anyone with knowledge to contact our office immediately.”

These acts of apparent vandalism are the subject of an ongoing investigative report by OIG. Brief details of each incident are given below to encourage MTA workers, management and members of the public to come forward with any information by contacting the MTA Inspector General: Online (<http://mtaig.state.ny.us/ComplaintForm.aspx>), Phone (1-800-MTA-IG4U or 1-800-682-4448) or Email ([Complaints@mtaig.org](mailto:Complaints@mtaig.org)).

**1. 130 Livingston Station**

On October 24, 2019, at 130 Livingston Street, a NYCT employee discovered that the screen of a biometric clock was shattered, apparently vandalized.

**2. M.J. Quill Bus Depot**

On October 23, 2019, an adhesive substance was placed on the fingerprint reader of a biometric clock in an apparent act of vandalism, making the machine unusable.

**3. 14th Street Station (between 7th Avenue and 8th Avenue passageway)**

On July 12, 2019, at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street Complex, biometric clock wires were cut in an apparent act of vandalism.

**4. Concourse Rail Yard**

On July 3, 2019, at NYCT Concourse Rail Yard, OIG staff members responded to investigate a complaint of malicious damage to a time clock, and discovered that the front display screen had been shattered.

**5. 38<sup>th</sup> Street Yard, Brooklyn**

On June 7, 2019, a biometric clock appeared shattered within the display screen in an apparent act of vandalism.

**6. LIRR Jamaica Station**

On June 4, 2019, a severed wire, cut in an apparent act of vandalism, was discovered by a service technician preparing to install a Biometric clock.

The MTA Inspector General encourages all members of the public to reach out with complaints, tips, or to report fraud via the Office's confidential tip reporting portals: Online (<http://mtaig.state.ny.us/ComplaintForm.aspx>), Phone (1-800-MTA-IG4U or 1-800-682-4448) or Email ([Complaints@mtaig.org](mailto:Complaints@mtaig.org)).

Follow us on social media:

 [@MTA\\_OIG](https://twitter.com/MTA_OIG)

 [@MTA\\_OIG](https://www.instagram.com/MTA_OIG)

 [MTA Inspector General](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MTA-Inspector-General)

 [MTA Inspector General](https://www.facebook.com/MTAInspectorGeneral)