



September 26, 2025

Mr. Roger Harris  
President  
National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
1 Massachusetts Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Harris:

As elected officials representing the neighborhoods surrounding the Penn Station complex, we write to express our outrage regarding [recent reporting](#) that Amtrak, through the Amtrak Police, has initiated an organized arrest campaign at a men's bathroom at Penn Station targeting members of the LGBTQ community using undercover plainclothes police officers.

According to the reporting, Amtrak Police made 23 arrests for "public lewdness" at Penn Station in June 2025 and is now making up to 20 such arrests per day. The reporting also indicates that many of these charges have been ultimately dropped but only after LGBTQ New Yorkers have been handcuffed and arrested. In at least one case, an arrestee was transferred to the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Finally, the reporting indicates that undercover Amtrak Police are using constitutionally dubious tactics to target individuals they perceive as targets for arrest, including by using apps popular with gay men and by approaching and propositioning users of the bathroom.

First, we demand that Amtrak Police immediately cease identifying and targeting members of the LGBTQ community for search, seizure and arrest on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, which likely constitutes discriminatory treatment in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Second, we request an urgent meeting for further discussion with you and representatives from Amtrak Police. Specifically, it is imperative that Amtrak provide clarification or justification for its reported arrest campaign and commit to exploring alternatives that further Amtrak's goals without subjecting New Yorkers to arrest and detention solely on the basis of their perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

As you may know, there is a long and painful tradition of police forces using loitering, identification, prostitution, lewdness, and similar laws to target LGBTQ people for harassment, arrest, and incarceration. Just a few years ago, the Port Authority of New

York and New Jersey [settled a class action lawsuit](#) over similar arrests and promised to end patrols similar to those currently being conducted by the Amtrak Police. While Amtrak is entitled to ensure that its facilities are not used for illicit purposes, we do not believe Amtrak should be doing so with a hostile arrest campaign reminiscent of anti-LGBTQ policing from the Stonewall era.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Please contact Representative Nadler's office at your earliest convenience to schedule our meeting request in order that we may discuss this important issue further.

Sincerely,



Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. Representative, NY-12



Brad Hoylman-Sigal  
State Senator, District 47



Liz Krueger  
State Senator, District 28



Tony Simone  
Assembly Member, District 75