



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

December 28, 2016

Hon. Thomas F. Prendergast
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
NYC Metropolitan Transit Authority
130 Livingston Street
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Chairman Prendergast:

At the General Meeting, Tuesday, December 20, 2016 Community Board 12-Manhattan passed the following resolution with a vote of (30)In Favor, (0)Opposed, (0)Abstain, recommending the NYC/MTA City Council and the Mayor of the City of New York allocate funds to implement and oversee such a program, as well as, subsidize any remaining shortfall in funding such program.

Whereas, The MTA has increased the fare for public transportation incrementally, but in the last several years fare hikes have become more frequent; and

Whereas, According to an article published by Newsweek in 2015, the pay per ride fare in 1995 was \$1.50 and did not change until 2003 and additionally the pay per ride fare increased to \$2 and the MTA raised the fare again in 2009, 2013, and 2015 where it remains today at \$2.75; and according to an article published by the NY Times on November 16, 2016 the MTA is proposing a fare hike to \$3.00 under a plan for fare and toll increases,

Whereas, The MTA has introduced reduced fare programs for senior commuters and disabled commuters, but has not created any fare reduction program for lowincome commuters; and according to the Community Service Society report, cities such as San Francisco, London and Seattle have created programs to assist lowincome commuters; and

Whereas, According to a joint report released by the Community Service Society and the Riders Alliance, 300,000 working poor New Yorkers spend 10% of their family budget on transit expenses; and
Whereas, According to the New York State Department of Labor, in March of 2016 New York City had a 5.7% unemployment rate; and

Whereas, According to the Community Service Society and Riders Alliance report, one out of three low income working age New Yorkers said transit fares prevented them from taking a job further from where they live; and

Whereas, The report also found that 58% of poor New Yorkers rely on subways and buses to get around the city; and

Whereas, According to a New York Times article, from 2013 to 2015 10,000 people were arrested in subway stations because they asked another person to swipe them into the subway and/or due to fare evasion; and

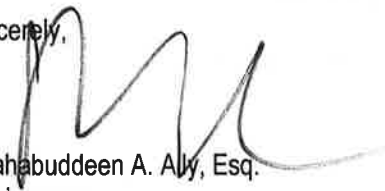
Whereas, the Community Board 12 district has a large low income population that would benefit from reduced fares as it will avail them the opportunity to more easily access needed services, employment, educational and other opportunities; and

Whereas, According to a New York Times article, the MTA has estimated that \$52 million a year in unused balances is left on cards; and the MTA could create a means by which MetroCard purchasers could make a monetary contribution to provide low income commuters MetroCards and the MTA could create a system to collect unused MetroCards to give to low income commuters; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Community Board 12 of Manhattan calls upon the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), to create a donation system, which allows purchasers of MetroCards to make a voluntary monetary contribution to a fund for lowincome New Yorkers and a means to collect unused MetroCard funds to donate to lowincome commuters; and be it further

Resolved, That the City Council and the Mayor of the City of New York allocate funds to implement and oversee such a program, as well as, subsidize any remaining shortfall in funding such program.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.
Chairperson

Cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member