



NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
Member of Assembly 64th District

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The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

February 25, 2020

Dear Governor Cuomo,

I am writing to urge you to not accept the recent recommendations to the MTA Board made by Mayor de Blasio that would allow Staten Island to remain unrepresented. The two recommendations made by Mayor de Blasio come from territories that already have representation on the MTA board. At the moment, Staten Island is the only borough of New York City, as well as, the only county within the MTA Service Territory without representation. It would be foolish to not take this opportunity to give Staten Islanders the voice they so desperately need and deserve.

Staten Island is the most transportation-starved borough in New York City, the only borough that lacks a subway system, and is the only borough that requires a bridge toll to connect to the rest of the city. As you are aware, the bridge toll set by the MTA Board is the most expensive toll in the nation. In addition, there are important projects that the community has been fighting for, such as the Staten Island North Shore Bus Rapid Transit and the West Shore Rail. It is critical that we have a voice on the board to advocate for their fruition.

Furthermore, I am concerned about the influential role the MTA board will play in determining a congestion pricing structure, fees and exemptions next year. Staten Island must have a seat at this table.

I implore you to reject one of Mayor de Blasio's recommendations, and instead appoint a member to the MTA Board from Staten Island. This would allow the MTA Board to hear how important decisions, such as toll hikes and congestion pricing, would impact our constituents in Staten Island. The people of Staten Island are counting on you to allow them the representation they deserve.

Sincerely,

Nicole Malliotakis
Member of the Assembly
64th District