

Local 100's leadership team has marshaled a wide cross-section of support from elected state legislators to pressure the MTA to bring back cash transactions to the station booths.

Cash transactions were paused during the pandemic in an attempt to mitigate transmission of the virus. But while cash transactions have returned to the LIRR and Metro North, the MTA has not returned it to the subways in an effort to force passengers to use its contactless OMNY fare collection system or MetroCard machines.

TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano and Stations Division Vice President Robert Kelley lashed out at the MTA's decision to service the suburbs while leaving subway riders in the lurch. "Are they better than subway riders? Are they more deserving of this level of customer service? It's an insulting outrage," TWU Local 100 President Tony Utano said. **Vice President Kelley added that the MTA's action unfairly burdens working class New Yorkers and the working poor.**



Robert Kelley

Politicians agree. In support of Local 100's position, **forty two (42) legislators, including 24 State Senators and 18 Members of the New York State Assembly**, signed on to a letter to MTA CEO Patrick Foye demanding a return of cash transactions. "With over 25 of New York City residents considered unbanked or underbanked, with that percentage significantly higher in many communities, the proposed cashless fare-paying system raises deep concerns. This proposal will be financially burdensome and detrimental to many of our constituents."

(letter attached)





THE LEGISLATURE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

July 6, 2021

Patrick J. Foye
Chairman and CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Re: MTA Transition to Cashless System and Impact on Minority Communities

Dear Chairman Foye:

We write to express our opposition to the proposed MTA transition to a cashless system. As discussed below, we oppose this due to the adverse impact this change in policy and practice would have on significant sectors of our communities: people living in poverty, those with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, communities of color, and our essential transit workers.

As with every move to modernize and introduce new technology to the masses of consumers, thoughtful review of the negative impacts is required. Complicating these decisions are the stark realities of the huge existing economic, social, and access disparities facing mass transit users in the MTA's service area.

Many mass transit users are unbanked or underbanked, and others do not have access to cell phones. High rates of poverty in New York City and the surrounding areas must be properly taken into account as the MTA considers moving towards a cashless transportation system. With over 25% of New York City residents considered unbanked or underbanked, with that percentage significantly higher in many communities, the proposed cashless fare-paying system raises deep concerns. This proposal will be financially burdensome and detrimental to many of our constituents.

In addition, huge numbers of mass transit users are limited English proficient, demonstrating the necessity of maintaining station agents in booths to assist in customer service, safety and security. Pre-pandemic, over 63 million tourists visited New York City each year from all over the world. The likely loss of a significant number of jobs in the transit system if this plan is implemented is also unacceptable. Not only are our transit workers frontline heroes for their work during the pandemic, but the full complement of employees in the stations providing assistance, guidance, safety and security to all transit users is essential.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these key issues with you and how they impact our communities, and to have these concerns addressed prior to the implementation of the transition away from cash and Metrocards. It

is vitally important to the well-being of our constituents and their families that these concerns are deliberated and examined before the MTA rolls out any cashless system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the MTA wholly fulfills its mandate to provide accessible and affordable mass transit access to all our communities.

Sincerely,



Julia Salazar
New York State Senate, 18th District



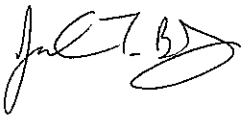
Catalina Cruz, Esq.
Member of Assembly
39th A.D.



Timothy Kennedy
New York State Senate 63rd District



Jessica Ramos
New York State Senate 13th District



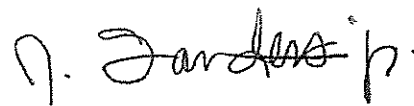
Jamaal T. Bailey
New York State Senate 36th District



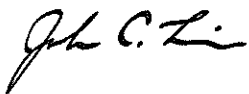
Jabari Brisport
New York State Senate 25th District



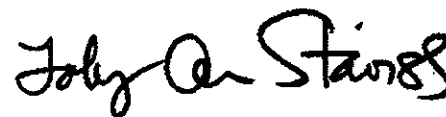
Jose Serrano
New York State Senate 29th District



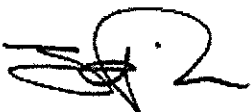
James Sanders Jr.
New York State Senate 10th District



John C. Liu
New York State Senate, 11th District



Toby Ann Stavisky
New York State Senate 16th District



Gustavo Rivera
New York State Senate 33rd District



Zellnor Myrie
New York State Senate 20th District



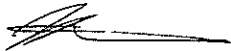
Maritza Davila
Member of Assembly
53rd A.D.



Zohran K. Mamdani
Member of Assembly
36th A.D.



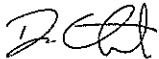
Rebecca A. Seawright
Member of Assembly
37th A.D.



Harvey Epstein
Member of Assembly
74th A.D.



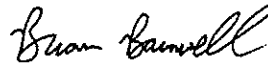
Charles Barron
Member of Assembly
60th A.D.



Dan Quartz
Member of Assembly
73rd A.D.



Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn
Member of Assembly
42nd A.D.



Brian Barnwell
Member of Assembly
30th A.D.



Karines Reyes, R.N.
Member of Assembly
87th A.D.



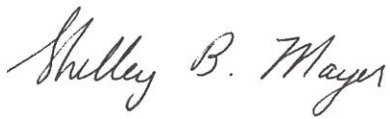
Linda B. Rosenthal
Member of Assembly
67th A.D.



Kenneth Burgos
Member of Assembly
85th A.D.



Catherine Nolan
Member of Assembly
37th A.D.



Shelly B. Mayer
New York State Senate 37th District



Robert Jackson
New York State Senate 31st District



Brad Hoylman
New York State Senate 27th District



Leroy Comrie
New York State Senate 14th District



Roxanne Persaud
New York State Senate 19th District



Samra Brouk
New York State Senate 55th District



Alessandra Biaggi
New York State Senate 34th District




Brian Kavanaugh
New York State Senate 26th District



Jeremy Cooney
New York State Senate 56th District



Andrew Gounardes
New York State Senate 22nd District



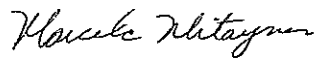
James Skoufis
New York State Senate 39th District



Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
New York State Senate 38th District



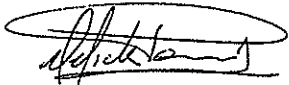
Michelle Hinchey
New York State Senate 46th District



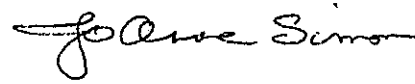
Marcela Mitaynes
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Khaleel M Anderson
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Nick Perry
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58th A.D.



Jo Anne Simon
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52nd A.D.



Carmen De La Rosa
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