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Resolutions, Legislative

TITLE....Urging the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to reconsider the layoffs of hundreds of station agents in New York City

05/04/10 ADOPTED

Senate Resolution No. 5080

BY: Senator ONORATO

URGING the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to reconsider the layoff of hundreds of station agents in New York City

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is planning to lay off approximately 500 employees in New York City starting this week in response to its current financial problems; and

WHEREAS, Several hundred station agents employed by the MTA will lose their jobs; station agents are the key personnel who help riders in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Transportation Authority plans to use security cameras and buzzers to help passengers in distress to compensate for the absence of laid-off station agents in several highly-used subway stations in New York City; and

WHEREAS, This reduction of the MTA's workforce will impact the security - and sense of security - for the thousands who ride the subways regularly, and have started to feel safer visiting New York City since September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, The need for continued responsiveness by station agents and other MTA employees to ensure the safety and security of those who ride New York City's subways and buses was demonstrated this week by an attempted car bomb explosion in Times Square; and

WHEREAS, Layoffs are a drastic response to financial difficulties that rip apart the security of affected employees and their families; and

WHEREAS, The layoff of hundreds of MTA employees will have a downward effect on New York City's economy and government by taking away the ability of workers to support local businesses and provide tax revenues, and may force many onto public assistance; and

WHEREAS, The layoffs will also increase the unemployment rolls in New York City, which currently has an unemployment rate of 10% which is higher than the rest of the state, and which also has an unemployment rate of 38.7% for African-Americans and 23% for Hispanics; and

WHEREAS, The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, as the country's largest urban transportation system, has built an excellent reputation for responding to the needs of its riders and making New York City easy

to get around by mass transit which helps the local economy by constantly bringing thousands of visitors to New York City each year; and

WHEREAS, The MTA's good reputation is due in large part to the dedication and quality work performed by MTA station agents and other employees; and

WHEREAS, Station agents can play an active role as partners with the MTA to curb the loss of \$27 million in revenues from turnstile jumping, as such loss was reported in a recent MTA audit; and

WHEREAS, The MTA's workforce is one of its strongest assets which should be maintained - not reduced - during this difficult financial period; and

WHEREAS, There are alternatives to laying off station agents that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority should consider to reduce costs that have not been given careful consideration by the MTA; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to urge the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, its Chairman and Board of Directors, to consider and use alternatives to laying off its station agents and other employees starting this week; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Jay Walder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Andrew M. Saul, Vice-Chairman, Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and Michael Bloomberg, Mayor, New York City.