



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jack M. Martins

Senator Martin's letter to Comptroller DiNapoli regarding the MTA's fiscal crisis

JACK M. MARTINS March 9, 2023

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Please read Senator Martin's letter to the State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, regarding the MTA's fiscal crisis.



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

March 3, 2023

Hon. Thomas P. DiNapoli
Office of the State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli,

Year after year, we hear that the MTA is facing a fiscal crisis and needs more money. Year after year, we see the governor and certain lawmakers trying to introduce new ways (taxes & fees) to get more money out of the taxpayers to keep the MTA solvent. At this point, turning to the taxpayers should be a last resort, not a first option. We request, as a matter of fiscal integrity, that your office conduct a forensic audit of the MTA to determine what steps they can implement to close their annual budget shortfall.

In looking back and reviewing previous audits that have been conducted, nearly every one has uncovered cases of either waste, fraud or mismanagement that has cost the taxpayers millions of dollars. We in the Senate are fully committed to exploring any and all alternatives to a tax or fare increase.

The purpose of the audit is to, not just identify what is wrong, but to also identify solutions that could fix the problems. Let us take the issue of money lost through fare evasions. The amount lost has been steadily and rapidly increasing over the last several years. This increase has reached a point where last year, it is estimated that the MTA lost over a half a billion dollars as a result of riders not paying their fares. Simply installing head to foot turnstiles would drastically reduce fare evasion and yet it does not seem there has been any effort made to do so.

It is vitally important to ensure that there is complete transparency and openness pertaining to this issue. Whether it is the MTA Payroll Tax or congestion pricing, enough is enough. The MTA needs to exhibit some fiscal responsibility and get its own financial house in order before asking for the taxpayers of our state to bail them out.

We look forward to your prompt attention to our request for a forensic audit of the MTA so we can ensure they are following best practices and prudent financial management. Please provide a timeframe for the completion of this audit so a thorough review of all options can be explored.

Sincerely,



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