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**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY**



SENATOR TODD KAMINSKY
9TH SENATE DISTRICT

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

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September 21, 2016

Thomas F. Prendergast
Chairman and CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Chairman Prendergast:

I am writing to request that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“MTA”) take immediate action to install surveillance cameras in and around all of its train stations, cars, and usable property. Given recent terrorist activity and the discovery of five pipe bombs inside a wastebasket near a train station in Elizabeth, New Jersey, I find this matter to be of the utmost importance to the security of my constituents and our infrastructure.

The most recent terrorist attack highlights that while we have made progress in monitoring terrorist activity, security in and around our train platforms, stations and cars must be improved to thwart potential terrorist activities. The London Underground has implemented high-tech Closed-circuit television surveillance software that automatically alerts operators to unattended packages and suspicious behavior, and the DC Metro has also taken measures to equip its transit system with video cameras. I am grateful for the MTA’s prior assistance in installing cameras in the Lawrence and Cedarhurst train stations in an effort to stop hate graffiti, and believe that having cameras in and around all stations and trains will assist law enforcement officials in their investigations.

While I understand that the MTA has plans to install surveillance cameras at stations and in subway cars, I believe that recent events emphasize the urgency of implementing these measures now. This plan must include Long Island Railroad (“LIRR”) and Metro North stations and train cars, and implementation must be accelerated and funding should be prioritized. I urge you to fully fund this project in the next MTA budget. With more than 2.7 billion people utilizing the MTA’s services every year, including the LIRR which with a ridership of 87 million per year is the largest commuter rail in the nation, and with almost 69,000 employees, it is vital that cameras are installed as quickly as possible to enhance the security of our transit system.

We must do all that we can to deter terrorist acts. This most recent event reminds us that we must be diligent and prepared for what could happen. Criminal and suspicious activity is



less likely to happen when terrorists and perpetrators know that they are being monitored. The installation of cameras is pivotal in deterring terrorist attacks, and would also aid investigations in the event that we are ever faced with an attack on our transit system.

As North America's largest transportation network, MTA should lead the way in security and take aggressive steps to ensure the safety of its passengers and workers. I look forward to working with you to ensure the safety of the MTA's passengers and workers.

Sincerely,



Todd Kaminsky
Senator, 9th District