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THE COUNCIL  
OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**JUSTIN BRANNAN**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 43<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

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September 21, 2023

Chairman Janno Lieber  
Metropolitan Transit Authority  
2 Broadway  
New York, NY 10004

Chairman Lieber,

I hope this letter finds you well.

My staff recently met with a group of constituents who ride motorcycles as a primary mode of transportation within the city. They brought to our attention the apparent lack of consideration of how motorcycles fit into New York State's still-formulating congestion pricing plan for Lower Manhattan.

In southern Brooklyn, I represent a number of areas that are effective public transit deserts, especially when it comes to reliably available connections to Manhattan. For that reason, I have a number of concerns about congestion pricing in general. As opposed to when congestion pricing was first proposed, I also believe we re-whether we're still in the right moment to implement congestion pricing. I'm not convinced it makes sense to start congestion pricing right now, while we're still trying to fill vacant office space and get people back out to work in post-COVID shutdowns Manhattan.

That said, I understand the state is moving forward with congestion pricing regardless of these concerns. If we're still going to do this, we should at least try to have our plan make as much sense as possible. I know you have been and will continue to be approached by many groups seeking exemptions from congestion pricing. As you consider these requests, I urge you to seriously consider an exemption, or at least a significant discount, from congestion pricing fees for legal, licensed, and insured motorcycles. Motorcycles contribute far less to traffic jams, parking shortages, and carbon emissions than other conventional road vehicles do. It seems clear to me that any plan striving to do what the state purports to want out of congestion pricing should incentivize use of motorcycles, and certainly should at least not treat them the same as SUVs, minivans, pickup trucks, and cars.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my District Office at 718-748-5200 should you require further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Brannan".

*Councilman Justin Brannan, 43<sup>rd</sup> District  
Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach, Bensonhurst*