



DETECTIVES' ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

POLICE DEPARTMENT • CITY OF NEW YORK

26 THOMAS STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007

(212) 587-1000 • FAX (212) 732-4863

www.nycdetectives.org

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Memo of Opposition

Congestion Pricing

The Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc. (DEA) — the labor union of 18,000 active and retired New York Police Department Detectives — is vehemently *opposed* to **congestion pricing**, designed to produce tolls and/or other financial penalties for driving through certain areas of midtown New York City at designated times of the day. By imposing fines on people who drive through the area, the MTA claims this will finance improvements in the public mass transit system. Proponents of congestion pricing also claim that this will eliminate traffic and thus ease congestion in midtown Manhattan and make traffic flow speedier.

While we do not argue that fewer cars are better for the environment, congestion pricing will not result in less cars or trucks for business. Congestion pricing is simply one more toll that any driver has to pay to do his or her job in midtown during the business day. Congestion pricing is an idea that penalizes those who actively live, work, and/or do business in the Borough, and those who bring money into the Borough, while it does nothing to entice people to utilize our public transportation systems, because it does nothing to improve our public transportation system **upfront**.

We don't believe that anyone who doesn't really need to drive into midtown does so, and therefore the only people who will suffer fines are the workers who **have no choice** about the necessity to utilize cars in the area: including taxis, Ubers, Lyft drivers, Teamsters and other truckers and delivery drivers, tourist buses, and of course our own **Detective members** and other **members of the service** who utilize their personal vehicles on the job at all hours of the day. Plainclothes Detectives, Undercovers, and others routinely use unmarked cars, and often those cars are the personal cars of our members. Fines will be incurred by our already dwindling and beleaguered police force and other uniformed workers. As it is, crime is skyrocketing and the City cannot withstand imposing any more reasons why Officers should retire or transfer to a police force outside of the City.

Congestion pricing is a terrible idea to consider after the economic downturn caused by two years of an international pandemic. Just when New York City needs workers to return to their midtown offices, and needs to encourage tourism and nightlife, congestion pricing will do the opposite: cause businessmen and women to avoid



THE POLICE UNION REPRESENTING THE GREATEST DETECTIVES IN THE **WORLD**

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midtown. For those who cannot, all costs associated with this tax or penalty will be passed along to the consumers: whether it is daily food or product delivery, including UPS, Fed Ex, or any other trucking service; or hotel/airport buses; tourist bus transportation to the theatres or restaurants; material delivery to construction sites; or any other use of vehicles doing business in midtown Manhattan.

The wealthy and those corporate executives who utilized chauffeured limousines will always be able to shoulder the burden of the fines, so congestion pricing will not persuade them to give up their luxury vehicles.

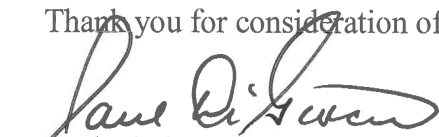
However, those who can afford it least will suffer financially.

Adherents of congestion pricing claim it actually benefits drivers and businesses by reducing delays and stress caused by heavy traffic. This is ridiculous: no financial fine aimed at drivers will ever benefit other drivers. What will benefit drivers is if more daily tourists and suburbanites **coming from outside the City** were enticed to use public transportation. What will increase public transportation is physically cleaning the transportation system and rendering it safe and efficient. Arresting fare beaters, vandals, criminal perpetrators, and protecting mass transit workers, while removing homeless encampments will entice riders. The outside transportation agencies, such as Amtrak, NJ Transit, and other train lines into the City, need to be improved so that people can travel here in comfort and won't feel the need to bring their personal or rental cars into town.

Therefore, the Detectives' Endowment Association, Inc. urges the City of New York *to reject* congestion pricing.

However, if this plan proceeds, it must include an exemption for NYPD Detectives and all members of the New York Police Department, both active and retired, whose presence in midtown benefits the safety of all New Yorkers.

Thank you for consideration of our opinion.


Paul DiGiacomo
President

PDG/sfk