

**Alida Camp
Chair**

**Will Brightbill
District Manager**



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**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

May 22, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Carl Heastie
Speaker, NYS Assembly
LOB 932
Albany, NY 12248

The Honorable Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Majority Leader, NYS Senate
188 State Street, Room 907, LOB
Albany, NY 12247

RE: Discussion regarding a temporary suspension of the \$2.50 congestion fee assessed on yellow taxis in Manhattan south of 96th Street

Dear Governor Cuomo, Speaker Heastie, and Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on May 20, 2020, the board **APPROVED** the following resolution by a vote of 45 in favor, 3 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS; Community Board 8 Manhattan has expressed support for a permanent elimination of the \$2.50 congestion fee on Yellow Taxis south of 96th Street, and

WHEREAS; the Covid-19 outbreak has resulted in significant changes to travel behaviors and decision-making due to health and economic factors;

WHEREAS; at-risk populations have exhibited especially poor outcomes upon contracting Covid-19, and thus in certain instances are directed to avoid public transportation; and

WHEREAS; the Covid-19 outbreak has resulted in significant reductions to public transportation service for the general public, making access to jobs, services and healthcare more challenging, especially during overnight hours when the subway system is closed for cleaning; and

WHEREAS; the \$2.50 congestion fee on yellow taxis during an economic crisis is especially burdensome to vulnerable low-income populations, including many seniors residing in Manhattan Community District 8; and

WHEREAS; the \$2.50 congestion fee on Yellow Taxis is antithetical at a time when congestion is not occurring, and social distancing guidelines discourage the use of subways and buses; and

WHEREAS; safe and efficient mobility must be preserved for all residents and visitors of Community District 8 without additional cost barriers that are regressive in nature to persons with limited ability to absorb such costs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests the temporary suspension of the \$2.50 congestion fee on Yellow Taxis south of 96th Street in Manhattan

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the \$2.50 fee remain suspended until public health experts in New York State declare public transportation use to be safe for at-risk populations.

Sincerely,

Alida Camp

Craig Lader and Charles Warren

Alida Camp
Chair

Craig Lader and Charles Warren
Co-Chairs, Transportation Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Carolyn Maloney, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable Dan Quart, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District