

January 9, 2018

The Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Governor
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Re: Request for Increased New York State Police Presence

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I hope this letter finds you well.

When I first saw the presence of New York State Troopers on Interstate 278, the Staten Island Expressway ("SIE") my reaction was a resounding "Yes!" To say they were a welcomed sight would be an understatement.

I greatly appreciate their presence and assistance in protecting Staten Islanders, especially as it relates to their active enforcement of the rules governing the High Occupancy Vehicle Lane ("HOVL") on the SIE. That lane, which proceeds over the Verrazano Bridge and the Brooklyn Queens Expressway all the way to and from the mouth of the Hugh Carey Tunnel, is critically important for Staten Island commuters and Express Bus riders. I consider enforcement of the HOVL rules to be so vital that I am hereby respectfully requesting even more help.

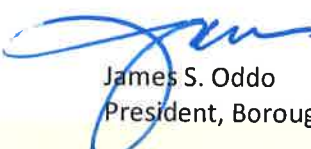
I travel on the SIE on a daily basis, and can tell you that it can often be a very frustrating commute, indeed. However, I readily admit that it is a very much better commute than it had been, thanks in large part to the addition of HOVL - but I also believe the rules can and should be enforced to a greater degree than they currently are.

The SIE portion of the HOVL, both eastbound and westbound, is such an effective time-saver that it attracts numerous "cheaters," that is, vehicles with only one or two passengers who would otherwise be sitting in bumper-to-bumper, rush hour traffic with the rest of us law-abiding citizens. Unfortunately, however, enforcement of the HOV3+ rule by the New York City Police Department and New York State Police is inconsistent, thereby emboldening those who use the lane illegally, while frustrating those of us stopped in traffic watching the cheaters fly by.

I know resources are not infinite, but I am requesting an increased New York State Police presence on the SIE in order to enforce the law and ensure better compliance from those inconsiderate motorists who thwart the benefits of the HOV lanes. Commuting from Staten Island to points east and west is already a nightmare. Insufficient enforcement of the HOVL rules only serves to make it worse.

I would be happy to discuss this with you at any time, and thank you for your kind attention.

Very truly yours,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

p.s. Thank you!

