

October 3, 2017

Mr. Joseph Lhota  
Chairman, Metropolitan Transit Authority  
2 Broadway, 30<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10004

Re: MTA Police Presence on Staten Island

Dear Chairman Lhota:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am asking for your assistance in correcting a matter which I believe has serious safety and security implications for Staten Island commuters and tourists alike. Specifically, I am referring to a paucity of MTA police officers patrolling the Staten Island Railway (SIR) and the lower portion of the Staten Island Ferry terminal.

It has come to my attention that the number of officers assigned to Staten Island are so few that after the MetroCard booth at the ferry terminal closes at 7:00 pm, *no officers are assigned to patrol the station until the following morning*. As well, there are no K-9 units assigned to Staten Island, and no officers trained in the use of, or carrying, long guns – an important deterrent to terrorist activity.

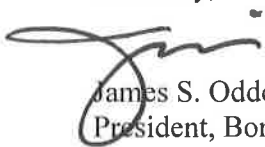
That the Staten Island Ferry is a high-profile target for terrorism is obvious, so we must ask ourselves if it is going to take a tragedy to correct this situation, or are we going to proactively commit the resources necessary to prevent such a tragedy from happening in the first place.

Without officers available to patrol the SIR, it has become a free livery service for drug dealers to ply their trade, a scourge that is devastating our borough. Without officers available to write summonses, our stations have become litter-strewn eyesores. Without officers available on a 24-hour basis at the ferry terminal, a commuter or tourist-laden boat might be considered a soft target for those who wish us ill.

Given the stakes, I do not think asking for perhaps an additional two dozen officers is over-reaching; far from it, along with long guns and K-9 units it seems to be simple prudence. I hope you will agree with me that these measures should be instituted now in order to prevent a tragedy later.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo  
President, Borough of Staten Island

Cc: Veronique Hakim

