

March 22, 2016

Mr. Thomas Prendergast
Chairman, MTA New York City Transit
2 Broadway, 30th Floor
New York, NY 10004

Re: Emergency Transportation for Nursing Personnel

Dear Chairman Prendergast:

I hope this letter finds you well.

We are attempting to alleviate a serious problem that occurred during Winter Storm Jonah, and I hope you can be of assistance. The problem stems from the inability of key hospital personnel, especially Registered Nurses (RNs), to travel safely to work in exceptionally poor weather situations. When coupled with road a closure, the result is that our two hospital systems find themselves understaffed, creating a dangerous situation for their patients.

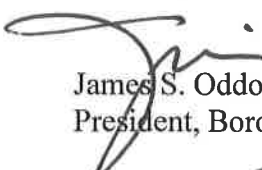
During a recent conference with representatives of Staten Island University Hospital (SIUH), Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC), New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and members of the New York State Nurses Association, we discussed methods of avoiding these problems in the event of future disruptive storms.

One of the suggestions was the use of MTA buses to transport nurses from pre-staged collection points, scattered throughout Staten Island, to the hospitals. This would result in single buses, much better equipped to travel safely in stormy weather, taking the place of dozens of private vehicles on our roads.

Of course, I recognize that there is a great deal of planning and studying that must be done to put such a system in place, but I would like to know that we agree that the idea is a viable one, and will lead to increased safety for both our nurses and the patients who depend upon them. I believe if we start to address this now, we can have something in place by next winter.

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

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

*P.S. I'd to talk to your folks
about helping on this front.
with only 2 hospitals on SI
we're already vulnerable.
Many thanks!!*

