## STATEMENT OF AAA NEW YORK, INC., BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION NEW YORK, NY April 23, 2012

My name is Jeffrey A. Frediani, I am a legislative analyst with AAA New York.

AAA New York serves more than 1.6 million members residing in the City of New York and adjacent counties of New York State. We support Intro 784-A.

In recent years, many municipalities have moved away from traditional coin-based parking meters to electronic muni-meters that dispense timed receipts to be displayed on a vehicle's dashboard. While muni-meters offer more convenience than a traditional meter, such as accepting debit and credit cards, they can also create new problems for drivers such as parking and having to walk – sometimes to the end of the block – to access a muni-meter, leaving your car unattended in the process and at risk of getting a ticket, although not within the five minute grace period.

As proposed in Intro 784-A, drivers would have the opportunity to retain a still-valid muni-meter receipt and park at any other metered spot with the same or lower parking rate. Enacting this legislation will eliminate any current confusion between the Department of Transportation and ticketing agents on the street as to whether receipts with remaining time purchased are still valid, therefore reducing the number of tickets for drivers. In addition, it will allow drivers to get the full value of the parking time they purchased – instead of theoretically paying for an hour's worth of parking only to drive away after fifteen minutes and have to pay for another parking spot.

Estimates place the amount of revenue New York City receives each year from parking tickets in the neighborhood of \$600 million. With drivers continuing to be a top revenue source for the city, implementing small, commonsense measures such as this only seems fair.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

## THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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