

**NYC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT**  
**HEARING ON INTRO 895**  
**COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND LABOR**  
May 22, 2018

On behalf of Mayor Bill de Blasio and Commissioner Polly Trottenberg of the NYC Department of Transportation, we respectfully submit the following statement in support of Intro 895, which would authorize the Mayor to extend health insurance benefits to the surviving family members of a recently deceased member of NYCDOT's Bridges Division.

On April 4, 2018, George Staab, an Electrician in NYCDOT's Division of Bridges, and a colleague pulled off to the shoulder of the southbound Hutchinson River Parkway, to perform routine maintenance on the Hutchinson River Parkway Bridge. As they were exiting their vehicle to approach the bridge's electrical house, George was fatally struck by a vehicle that eventually landed on an embankment further up the road.

George was an extraordinary electrician and colleague—a man of remarkable positivity, experience and energy. He loved his work, and was a teacher and a mentor for his younger colleagues at DOT. He was known as someone who could fix bridges that no one else could.

He was also a devoted family man. He leaves behind his loving wife Tara and their seven children: Corey, George, Meagan, David, Elizabeth, Emily, and Tara, as well as 11 grandchildren.

DOT relies upon and appreciates the employees of our Bridges Division—men and women like George Staab—who are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of nearly 800 City-owned bridges, as well as those at DOT who operate and maintain our roads, sidewalks, traffic systems and ferries. They are among the men and women who make this great City possible.

Today we ask the City Council to recognize the contributions these men and women have made to our City by ensuring that the Mayor has the option to provide their families with continuing health insurance benefits. Therefore, we respectfully urge you to honor George Staab and pass this bill.