



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 229

Resolution calling upon the New York State Legislature to create a law that mandates that a New York City Police Department representative serve as a member of the Port Authority Board of Commissioners and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board, in order to address security concerns.

By Council Members Vallone Jr., Fidler, Gennaro, Gentile, Gerson, Liu, Mendez, Nelson, Recchia Jr., Seabrook and Sears

Whereas, The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (“Port Authority”) manages and maintains the bridges, tunnels, bus terminals, airports, Port Authority Trans-Hudson (“PATH”) system and seaport that are critical to the trade and transportation capabilities in the New York-New Jersey region; and

Whereas, The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (“MTA”) subways, buses, and railroads provide mass transit to nearly 8 million New Yorkers each weekday, and move 2.4 billion New Yorkers each year; MTA bridges and tunnels carry nearly 300 million vehicles annually-more than any bridge and tunnel authority in the nation; the MTA operates the largest transportation network in North America, serving a population of 14.6 million people in the 5,000 square-mile area spanning New York City through Long Island, southeastern New York State, and Connecticut; and

Whereas, A twelve-member Board of Commissioners governs the Port Authority, to which the Governor of New York and the Governor of New Jersey appoint six members each, subject to State Senate approval; Port Authority Board Members serve as public officials without pay for overlapping six-year terms, and the Governors retain the right to veto the actions of Commissioners from his or her own state; the Board of Commissioners appoints an Executive Director to carry out the Port Authority’s policies and manage its day-to-day operations; and

Whereas, The MTA is governed by a Board consisting of seventeen members who are nominated by the

Governor of New York, with four members recommended by the Mayor of New York City, and one member recommended by each of the County Executives of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Dutchess, Orange, Rockland, and Putnam counties; the MTA Board also has six rotating non-voting seats held by representatives of organized labor and the Permanent Citizens Advisory Committee, which serves as a voice for users of MTA transit and commuter facilities; all Board members are confirmed by the New York State Senate; and

Whereas, Current New York State law does not direct the Governor of New York to designate a member of the New York City Police Department (“NYPD”) to the Port Authority Board of Commissioners and the MTA Board, although the NYPD is viewed as the Nation’s leader in law enforcement practices; and

Whereas, NYPD officers work for the largest police department in the Nation, and have extensive training in crime prevention, investigations, narcotics enforcement, forensic science, law, youth relations, and community affairs, in addition to significant expertise in counterterrorism tactics; and

Whereas, The vast transportation system operated by the Port Authority and the MTA, and the critical infrastructure and important entryways in the New York City region managed by these entities are vulnerable to criminal acts, as well as terrorism; this extensive transit network, including major access points to New York City, must be monitored with the utmost diligence to ensure the safety of all New Yorkers and Americans alike; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the New York State Legislature to create a law that mandates that a New York City Police Department representative serve as a member of the Port Authority Board of Commissioners and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board, in order to address security concerns.

JPV
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