



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #: Res 0069-2002 **Version:** * **Name:** MTA, Rules Portable Telephones

Type: Resolution **Status:** Filed

In control: Committee on Transportation

On agenda: 2/27/2002

Enactment date: **Enactment #:**

Title: Resolution calling upon the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to promulgate rules governing the use of portable telephones on the New York City mass transit system.

Sponsors: Philip Reed, Margarita Lopez, Bill Perkins, Gale A. Brewer, James S. Oddo, G. Oliver Koppell

Indexes:

Attachments: 1. Hearing Transcript

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
2/27/2002	*	City Council	Introduced by Council	
2/27/2002	*	City Council	Referred to Comm by Council	
10/10/2002	*	Committee on Transportation	Hearing Held by Committee	
10/10/2002	*	Committee on Transportation	Deferred	
12/31/2003	*	City Council	Filed (End of Session)	

Res. No. 69

Resolution calling upon the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to promulgate rules governing the use of portable telephones on the New York City mass transit system.

By Council Members Reed, Lopez, Perkins, Brewer and Oddo; also Council Member Koppell

Whereas, Public transportation in New York City provides transportation to individuals from all parts of the world; and
 Whereas, The passengers on the New York City buses and subways are confined in close quarters for relatively short periods of time;
 and
 Whereas, Smoking and playing of portable radios are examples of conduct that is otherwise legal, but that is illegal during the short periods of time that a passenger uses the bus or subway; and
 Whereas, These rules enhance the ride and the comfort of all passengers in a manner that is comparable to other quality of life rules;
 and
 Whereas, The comfort of all passengers requires that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority enact and enforce rules that insure that passengers will not act in such a way as to cause annoyance, alarm or inconvenience to another reasonable person; and
 Whereas, A close attention to the quality of life in our mass transit system removes stress and increases the satisfaction of the users of the system; and
 Whereas, A satisfied user returns to the system and in other ways gains a favorable impression of New York City; and
 Whereas, Cellular phones are often used without regard for others, and in a manner that can be obnoxious or even rude; and
 Whereas, Individuals using these phones, raise their voices and in other ways intrude on the comfort of others; and
 Whereas, The Metropolitan Transit Authority has rules against sound production devices and engaging in nontransit activities while in subway stations or riding on buses and subways; and
 Whereas, The widespread use of portable phones is a relatively new practice; and
 Whereas, These devices are susceptible to abuse and need to be regulated in a manner comparable to that applied by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to radios; now, therefore, be it
 Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to promulgate rules governing the use of portable telephones on the New York City mass transit system.

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2/19/02