



## Legislation Text

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**File #:** Res 0198-2018, **Version:** \*

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### Res. No. 198

Resolution calling upon the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to add an additional member to the New York City Transit's Paratransit Advisory Committee (PAC) who would represent pregnant women and families.

By Council Members Brannan, Holden, Koo, Ampry-Samuel, Rosenthal, Gjonaj, Cumbo, Grodenchik, Levine, Maisel, Rivera and Ulrich

Whereas, Some pregnant women and families find it difficult to take public transportation in New York City; and

Whereas, When traveling on a New York City bus, strollers are required to be folded which can make it difficult for families to travel with young children; and

Whereas, The AutoGate is an automatic entry and exit to the subway, but it can only be opened by either a special Metrocard or a station attendant, however, some New York City subway stations do not have an attendant which means that the AutoGate cannot be opened for a family traveling with a stroller; and

Whereas, In addition to the factors that impact families, some women find it difficult to use New York City's public transportation system while pregnant; and

Whereas, Changes in a woman's body during pregnancy may affect a woman's stability and posture and pregnancy can cause dizziness, headaches, and backaches; and

Whereas, Many pregnant commuters find it difficult to obtain a seat on a bus or a train because sometimes people refuse to give them a seat; and

Whereas, In order to better accommodate pregnant women who take public transportation, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) launched a pilot program from May through September of 2017,

as part of their ‘Courtesy Counts’ campaign; and

Whereas, The MTA gave out free buttons that say, “baby on board” and “please offer me a seat” to help make it easier for pregnant women and people with disabilities to obtain a seat on public transit; and

Whereas, The campaign was meant to incentivize people to give up their seat without having an awkward interaction, such as mistakenly implying someone is pregnant or has a disability; and

Whereas, The MTA’s program is modeled after a program that began in London in 2005, when they created a button program for pregnant women and then later for people with disabilities; and

Whereas, According to the MTA, London’s government body, Transport for London, represents local transportation, has distributed approximately 130,000 buttons every year since 2005; and

Whereas, While the MTA is taking steps to make the commuting experience more hospitable for pregnant women and people with disabilities, it would be beneficial to have a dedicated representative on the New York City Transit’s Paratransit Advisory Committee (PAC) who could advocate for the needs of pregnant women and families; and

Whereas, PAC is an advisory body created to serve as a liaison between the disability community and the New York City Transit’s Paratransit Division; and

Whereas, The Paratransit Division of New York City Transit seeks PAC’s comments on proposed changes in service, policies and procedures; and

Whereas, In order to be a member of PAC, an individual must either be an Access-A-Ride customer or a representative of a disability organization from the five boroughs; and

Whereas, PAC is currently limited to fifteen members; and

Whereas, The MTA’s NYC Transit could add at least one additional position to PAC to represent pregnant women and families and to advocate for their needs on public transportation; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to add an additional member to the New York City Transit's Paratransit Advisory Committee (PAC) who would represent pregnant women and families.

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