12 February 2014

The Hon. Sheldon Silver, Speaker
NYS Assembly
Room 932LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Speaker Silver:

The Executive budget recommends sweeping $40 million in dedicated tax revenue from MMTOA, which primarily supports the MTA, to pay for a portion of the debt service associated with previously-issued MTA service contract bonds. Furthermore, the financial plan calls for $20 million of dedicated MTA revenue to be redirected to the general debt service fund annually.

This contradicts the presumption under which these funds were enacted as dedicated support for the MTA’s operations. As you will remember, both houses passed a bill last year nearly unanimously (vetoed by the Governor) to put monies from funds dedicated to mass transit into a “locked box” in order to protect these funds from being diverted for other purposes without specific legislative approval.

We believe that when the money is available it should be used to provide more services, or hold down the fare, not diverted for other purposes. We urge the Assembly to reject this sweep of funds, leaving $40 million more for general operations of the MTA.

Yours truly,

James F. Brennan

Michael G. DenDekker
The following Members of Assembly join as signatories on this MTA diversion letter:

Vivian Cook
Deborah Glick
Richard Gottfried
Ellen Jaffee
Brian Kavanagh
Joseph Lentol
Margaret Markey
Joan Millman
Walter Mosley
Francisco Moya
Steven Otis
Jose Rivera
Daniel Quart
Matthew Titone
Harvey Weisenberg
The following Members of Assembly also join as signatories on this MTA diversion letter:

Michael Benedetto
David Buchwald
Karim Camara
William Colton
Marcos Crespo
Steven Cymbrowitz
Maritza Davila
Steve Englebright
Nicole Malliotakis
Shelley Mayer
N. Nick Perry
Linda Rosenthal
Nily Rozic
Michelle Schimel
Aravella Simotas