

Testimony to the MTA
January 20, 2009
by Barbara Larkin, President
Belle Harbor Property Owners Association

Good Evening...My name is Barbara Larkin. I am President of the Belle Harbor Property Owners Association (BHPOA). In addition to representing approximately 1300 homeowners residing in Belle Harbor, I am joined by members of neighboring civics including, but not necessarily limited to, Neponsit, Rockaway Beach, Rockaway Park, Breezy Point, Arverne, Hammels, Edgemere, Bayswater, Far Rockaway and Broad Channel, as well as fellow officers of Queens Civic Congress, to express our outrage for the MTA's horrendous proposal designed to remove the Rockaway/Broad Channel Rebate Toll Program.

The aforementioned proposal would create tremendous financial hardships on the Broad Channel/Rockaway communities which share the same NYC Schools, Community Board, NYC Fire Department and NYC Police Precinct. Creating a toll for the citizens of these integrated communities would cause unfair burdens on those who should be encouraged to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences, Community Board Meetings and other gatherings requiring citizens' involvement in governmental planning in order to effect positive change. Further, Rockaway residents would be required to pay a fee en route to Queens County Courthouses, and other government offices.

In short, the BHPOA strongly opposes the proposed removal of the Rockaway/Broad Channel Residents' Rebate Program because it unjustly burdens all those residing within the postal zones 11691, 11692, 11693, 11694, 11695 and 11697 who, should the MTA have its way, would be forced to share a larger portion of the New York State MTA debt burden.

Thank you, in advance, for doing the right thing.

Sincerely,

Barbara S. Larkin