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May 6, 2019

Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Inc.
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004
Attention: Pat Foye, Chairman and CEO

Re: Beach 116th Street, Rockaway - Leases

Dear Chairman Foye:

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing on behalf of several concerned businesses within our districts located in Rockaway Park, Queens. Recently, the businesses — which are The Last Stop Gourmet Shop, Joseph A. Otton Tax & Accounting, Beach Cleaners and Tailors, and A & J Jewelry — received a letter from the MTA stating that their leases would be terminated on May 31, 2019 and that they must vacate the premises.

As it has been explained to our offices, the businesses initially received notice on May 3rd, 2018 that their leases will be expiring and would be required to pay on a month to month basis. Just this past week, the businesses were notified that their agreement would be terminated at the end of May and that their leases would be sent out to for a public bid process. We respectfully request that the MTA allow the businesses to remain within their buildings, as the agency commences their Request for Proposal process to find new tenants.

The backbone of our community here in Rockaway is our small businesses. By MTA upholding the public bid process, it will force these businesses to close their doors, causing a great loss not only for the owners and a loss of local jobs, but detrimental for all the families of our Superstorm Sandy ravaged communities, who have utilized these businesses in Rockaway Park for decades. While we understand the 2008 Public Authorities Law requires the MTA to legally open the bidding process when these current leases are up, we can ask if they will at least let these businesses remain on the property while that process is underway. Moving forward, we remain committed to amending the Public Authorities Law and see what changes can be made so situations like this do not happen in the future.

We ask that you direct the appropriate personnel to investigate this situation and consider our request to allow these businesses to remain. Please inform us of any decisions rendered. If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact us at (718) 945-9550 or (718) 738-1111.

Thank you for your time in reviewing and responding to this request.

Sincerely,

Stacey Pheffer Amato
Member of Assembly, 23rd District

Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr.
New York State Senator, 15th District

Enc.

CC: David Florio, Director Leasing, Acquisitions and Operations
SPA/akk