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February 8, 2017

Veronique Hakim
Interim Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Executive Director Hakim,

We are reaching out to you regarding concerns over the conditions at two stations along the 1 Train line: 168th Street and 181st Street. We thank the MTA for reaching the final stage of renovations of the roofs and lighting systems in these two stations; however, a more urgent matter has arisen that requires immediate attention. Elevator service continues to be a serious issue at both of these stations, with frequent breakdowns creating massive safety hazards of hundreds of people looking to exit the station at once, without adequate means to do so.

In the past week at 168th Street, elevator service from the platform to the street level has gone down on two separate occasions, leaving riders frightened and concerned for their safety, and on the second occasion, causing trains to skip this station entirely. Concurrently, our office has received numerous complaints over the past two years of elevator service going down at the 181st Street 1 Train station, causing massive congestion of riders in just one or two of the four elevators.

In a recent DNAINfo article (*Chaos and Delays Hit Uptown 1 Train Station 3 Times in Past Week*, Feb. 3rd, 2017), a spokesperson for the MTA references on-going construction at the 168th street station as being a cause for this congestion. However, the congestion is located on the platform, rather than the street level referenced by the spokesperson. This is demonstrated by the attached photo, taken from Twitter by a rider looking to exit the station on February 3rd. We understand from your spokesperson's comment that maintenance crews are on-hand to make quick repairs, however, a long term solution is clearly warranted at these locations.

We as elected representatives of this area and Chair of the NYC Council Transportation Committee, have serious concerns about the conditions at these stations. We reasonably fear the worst, should all elevators at these stations go out of service at the same time for any reason. We respectfully request that all 8 elevators—4 at 168th street and 4 at 181st street—receive a complete renovation to ensure that they do not continue to lose service with such frequency and that riders can safely enter and exit the train stations without fear. Of course, they must be renovated at separate times so there are always elevators in service.

We hope that you understand these concerns and will instruct your capital division to take these necessary steps for the safety of subway riders in our respective districts. We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter and await your prompt response.

Sincerely,



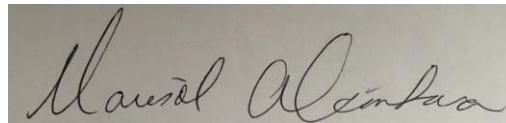
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NYC Council Transportation Chair



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