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THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY  
PUBLIC HEARING -- TOLL & FARE PROPOSALS

Michael J. Peterides Educational Complex  
AUGUST 16, 2011

JANE ROSE REPORTING  
La Tonia Lewis, RPR, Court Reporter

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>ERNEST BUTCHER, HEARING OFFICER</p> <p>SPEAKERS:<br/>JOSEPH PAMILLA<br/>ROBERT N. SPARANO<br/>CHAZ RYNKIEWICZ<br/>PAUL DIDONATO<br/>NEIL LUCCHESI<br/>FRANK MORANO<br/>JANINE MATERNINA<br/>MIKE MCGUIRE<br/>JOE VALENTIN<br/>MIKE CUSICK<br/>JIM ODDO, COUNCILMAN<br/>PEARL MENISKY<br/>DIANE DROZECK<br/>BRIAN SULLIVAN<br/>ANDREW LANZA, NY STATE SENATOR<br/>DAVID FIER<br/>CHRIS WALLACE<br/>MICHAEL GRELO<br/>PAUL CANPOVERDE<br/>DIANE SAVINO, STATE SENATOR<br/>MATTHEW TITONE<br/>LOU TOBACCO, NY STATE ASSEMBLY</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>SPEAKERS:(CONTINUED)<br/>PHILOMENIA TRAPANI<br/>KIM KASHDAN<br/>MARGARET PONTERELLA<br/>ANNETTE BATTISTA<br/>MARIO NICKILO<br/>AMANDA O'HARA<br/>DANNY PANZELLA<br/>EUGENE SPARANO<br/>CHRISTOPHER WALLACE<br/>WILLIAM J. SMITH<br/>TOM MCGINLEY<br/>DORRI ASPINWAL<br/>ANTHONY FAIRWEATHER<br/>ANTHONY DIMORRO<br/>CHARLES STAFFERS<br/>GREGORY MARKOW<br/>HOWARD COHEN</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>SPEAKERS: (CONTINUED)<br/>GRURANGE LEE<br/>PAWEL GRUCHAEZ<br/>TOMMY<br/>JOC RYNKEWIZ<br/>CHRIS COPPA<br/>LINDA BARON<br/>THOMAS BRIGONDI<br/>DAVIS HERNANDEZ<br/>SAMUEL JARVIS<br/>DAVID GLICK<br/>WILLIAM SMITH<br/>PHILIP MATLIN<br/>JOSE MURILLO<br/>BERYL THURMAN<br/>PETER PARCAMENT<br/>NATALIE GAWEDA<br/>JOSE MURILLO<br/>MIKE GRELO<br/>RICHARD DE PRIMA<br/>ROBERT SPARANO<br/>MARY ANNE DE PAOLO<br/>ROSALIE DRAGONETTI<br/>MARIE WAUSNOCK<br/>DEE VANDENBURG</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS<br/>2 MR. BUTCHER: Good evening, I will would<br/>3 like get started. First, I would like to<br/>4 introduce you to the borough president. James<br/>5 Morinaro to get started, Mr. Borough President<br/>6 MR. MORINARO: Thank you, thank you very<br/>7 much. First and foremost I would like to thank<br/>8 the Port Authority. Thank you for that. My<br/>9 second request to the audience. We obviously<br/>10 have pros and cons on the subject matter.<br/>11 Everyone is entitled to their opinion is entitled<br/>12 to speak. All I ask is that you respect the<br/>13 people that are speaking and what they are<br/>14 saying.<br/>15 You have a right to disagree. But the<br/>16 person speaking has a right to speak. I ask that<br/>17 you we remain civil and be considerate to each<br/>18 other. Thank you.<br/>19 My name is Ernesto Butcher. I am the<br/>20 Chief Operating Officer of the Port Authority of<br/>21 New York and New Jersey. I will be serving as<br/>22 the hearing officer for today's public comment<br/>23 session.<br/>24 The purpose of this hearing is to inform<br/>25 the public about the Port Authority's proposal</p> |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 for toll and fare increases on its interstate</p> <p>3 bridges and tunnels and the PATH rail system. We</p> <p>4 also are seeking to solicit comments from the</p> <p>5 public. And the Port Authority is holding the</p> <p>6 most number of hearings it has ever had for toll</p> <p>7 and fare proposal. We are holding eight hearings</p> <p>8 today. This is our 9th session except the</p> <p>9 meeting that was heard by the borough president.</p> <p>10 We appreciate that very much.</p> <p>11 But these meetings have been held</p> <p>12 throughout New York and New Jersey to provide</p> <p>13 anyone who wishes to speak with an adequate</p> <p>14 opportunity to be heard. Each speaker must be</p> <p>15 registered. If you have not yet registered and</p> <p>16 you would like to provide comments at this</p> <p>17 meeting, please register at the registration desk</p> <p>18 at the entrance to this room at 6:30 this</p> <p>19 evening.</p> <p>20 Spanish translation is available for</p> <p>21 speakers who wish to deliver their comments in</p> <p>22 Spanish. American sign language interpretation</p> <p>23 is also available to you as you can see.</p> <p>24 General information and copies of the</p> <p>25 notice today's hearing are available at the</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 cash rate from \$8 to \$15 during the peak period</p> <p>3 in 2011 for the 25 percent of toll-payers who</p> <p>4 still use the optional cash system. The</p> <p>5 surcharge will increase by an additional \$2 in</p> <p>6 2014.</p> <p>7 Truck tolls per axle using E-ZPass</p> <p>8 off-peak will increase from \$7 to \$13 round trip</p> <p>9 and peak from \$8 to \$14 during peak. With an</p> <p>10 additional \$2 for access in 2014 for both</p> <p>11 off-peak and peak hours. A cash surcharge of \$3</p> <p>12 per axle will be applied to trucks in 2011 that</p> <p>13 continue to use the optional cash system with an</p> <p>14 additional \$2 per axle in 2014.</p> <p>15 There will be no toll increase in 2011 on</p> <p>16 trucks that cross during an overnight discount</p> <p>17 period and the Port Authority will expand this</p> <p>18 period an extra two hours each day from 10 p.m.</p> <p>19 to 6 a.m. The previous hours were midnight to 6</p> <p>20 a.m. This proposal fully preserves the Staten</p> <p>21 Island Bridge discount plan for E-ZPass users</p> <p>22 giving frequent users a 50 percent toll discount</p> <p>23 on the peak E-ZPass toll</p> <p>24 In addition, qualified energy efficient</p> <p>25 vehicles with GreenPasses will see no toll</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 registration table. All comments presented at</p> <p>3 this hearing and those submitted and received by</p> <p>4 7 p.m. on August 16, 2011 will be accepted by the</p> <p>5 Port Authority in its consideration of the</p> <p>6 actions that are the subject of this hearing.</p> <p>7 Written statements should be sent to the</p> <p>8 following address:</p> <p>9 Public Hearing Comments, 225 Park Avenue</p> <p>10 South, 18th Floor, New York, New York 10003 or</p> <p>11 may be submitted online at <a href="http://www.panynj.info">www.panynj.info</a>.</p> <p>12 The Port Authority's Board of</p> <p>13 Commissioners will receive a copy of today's</p> <p>14 transcript and any written comments received</p> <p>15 prior to the deadline. At this time I will take</p> <p>16 a short moment to explain the Port Authority's</p> <p>17 toll and fare proposal and why the Port Authority</p> <p>18 believes it is necessary. The toll and fare</p> <p>19 proposal under consideration is as follows:</p> <p>20 Tolls, E-ZPasses and the Port Authority's</p> <p>21 crossing will increase from \$6 to \$10 round trip</p> <p>22 for off-peak travel and from \$8 to \$12 in peak</p> <p>23 hours. An additional \$2 increase during peak and</p> <p>24 off-peak hours will be implemented in 2014. A</p> <p>25 cash surcharge of \$3 dollars will increase the</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 increase during off-peak hours in 2011 and the</p> <p>3 car-poolers discount rate is preserved in 2011</p> <p>4 with a 50 percent discount off E-ZPass peak hour</p> <p>5 rate. Both GreenPasses and car-poolers will see</p> <p>6 a \$2 increase in 2014.</p> <p>7 The base PATH fare will increase from</p> <p>8 \$1.75 to \$2.75 in 2011, with the average fare</p> <p>9 increasing from \$2.10 to \$1.30 given the steep 25</p> <p>10 percent discount which will be fully preserved.</p> <p>11 The 30-day unlimited pass will increase to \$89</p> <p>12 from \$54.</p> <p>13 The proposed toll will fully fund the new</p> <p>14 33 billion ten-year plan, which will generate</p> <p>15 over 167,000 jobs. This toll and fare proposal</p> <p>16 is necessary because the Port Authority is facing</p> <p>17 three unprecedented challenges all at the same</p> <p>18 time.</p> <p>19 First, a historic economic recession that</p> <p>20 has sharply decreased revenue well below</p> <p>21 projections.</p> <p>22 More than \$6 billion in security costs</p> <p>23 since 9/11 that has more than tripled from</p> <p>24 pre-9/11.</p> <p>25 And third, the cost of rebuilding the</p>  |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 World Trade Center which is now estimated at \$11</p> <p>3 billion.</p> <p>4 This proposal comes only after the Port</p> <p>5 Authority impose an aggressive cost-cutting plan</p> <p>6 in 2008 to manage its resources as an impact of</p> <p>7 the economic recession became clear. \$5 billion</p> <p>8 in capital projects and deferring billions,</p> <p>9 holding operating expenses at zero-growth for</p> <p>10 three consecutive years. And reduced agency head</p> <p>11 count to the lowest levels in forty years, an 11</p> <p>12 percent reduction of non-police staff in the last</p> <p>13 five years.</p> <p>14 The Port Authority has not received tax</p> <p>15 revenue making toll and fare structure policy the</p> <p>16 primary way to fund the region's critical</p> <p>17 interstate transportation network. At this</p> <p>18 point, after a multi-year effort to control</p> <p>19 spending in recognition of declining capital</p> <p>20 capacity, failure to act risks 240 critical</p> <p>21 infrastructure projects and thousand of jobs. It</p> <p>22 would also prevent the largest overhaul of the</p> <p>23 agency's aging facilities in its 90-year history.</p> <p>24 Projects contingent on the proposed</p> <p>25 toll/fare plan include:</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 comments.</p> <p>3 In order to present everyone an</p> <p>4 opportunity to speak, we require that speakers</p> <p>5 keep their oral presentation at the normal rate</p> <p>6 of three minutes. We will ask you to help us</p> <p>7 keep to that given the large number of people who</p> <p>8 would like to speak tonight. We should honor</p> <p>9 their intention.</p> <p>10 Please note that the timer is placed in</p> <p>11 the table in front of the room. It will</p> <p>12 countdown the three minutes. I will call the</p> <p>13 names of those who have preregistered and are</p> <p>14 here to speak. I will first read the names of</p> <p>15 the persons who need to speak and the following</p> <p>16 two names so everyone will be ready of the order</p> <p>17 in which they are speaking.</p> <p>18 When it is your turn to speak, use the</p> <p>19 microphone available down in front. I ask you to</p> <p>20 identify yourself, give your name and</p> <p>21 organization or affiliation, if appropriate, so</p> <p>22 that we can have those for the record.</p> <p>23 If you have a written version of your</p> <p>24 comments, please provide that to the staff at the</p> <p>25 registration table at the entrance to the room so</p>           |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 The first replacement of all 592 suspender</p> <p>3 ropes at the 80-year old George Washington Bridge</p> <p>4 the world's busiest crossing, joining other</p> <p>5 suspension bridges like the Golden Gate and RFK</p> <p>6 which have already replaced theirs.</p> <p>7 The replacement of the Lincoln Tunnel</p> <p>8 Helix. It will require major lane closures and</p> <p>9 load restrictions if not replaced.</p> <p>10 The raising of the Bayonne Bridge, which</p> <p>11 will solve the current clearance problem</p> <p>12 preventing the post-PANAMAX ships from accessing</p> <p>13 key ports.</p> <p>14 We would also be able to engage in</p> <p>15 significant security investments at the region's</p> <p>16 airports including installation of security</p> <p>17 barriers.</p> <p>18 We will be allowed to complete replacement</p> <p>19 of 340 PATH cars, replace the hundred- year old</p> <p>20 signal system and the duct bank network. We will</p> <p>21 upgrade PATH security with tunnel hardening and</p> <p>22 flood mitigation measures, and rehabilitate the</p> <p>23 system's aging stations.</p> <p>24 Now, I would like to begin with the public</p> <p>25 comment portion of this hearing with a few</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 the comments can be included in the final</p> <p>3 transcript of the proceedings.</p> <p>4 Finally, we remind you that the purpose of</p> <p>5 this hearing is for you to afford you an</p> <p>6 opportunity to make comments and statements about</p> <p>7 the proposed toll and fare increases. This is</p> <p>8 not a question and answer session. It is an</p> <p>9 opportunity for you to present your views so that</p> <p>10 the Port Authority can consider them in making</p> <p>11 any final determination.</p> <p>12 First speaker James Morinaro.</p> <p>13 MR. MORINARO: Good evening once again.</p> <p>14 My comments this evening are going to be</p> <p>15 addressed to the people in the audience not the</p> <p>16 Port Authority. There is a reason for that,</p> <p>17 quite a simple reason. There is no one here from</p> <p>18 Port Authority that can vote towards the increase</p> <p>19 going forward or not. Maybe that's also an</p> <p>20 insult. At least with the MTA we vote at</p> <p>21 hearings.</p> <p>22 The board members are not facing you,</p> <p>23 maybe they are laughing at you, they are facing</p> <p>24 you and they are listening, not listening to your</p> <p>25 comments. No one listens to your comments so I</p> |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 am going to address the audience. So you can</p> <p>3 then go on and write your governor's office.</p> <p>4 Because the last time I heard, this is the Port</p> <p>5 Authority of New York and New Jersey, not the</p> <p>6 Port Authority of New Jersey. And what is</p> <p>7 happening tonight and what is being proposed is</p> <p>8 the indication or the feeling that it is the Port</p> <p>9 Authority of New Jersey.</p> <p>10 This affects everyone in the audience.</p> <p>11 Whether for labor, against labor, up or down,</p> <p>12 whatever you are. Whether you are bald or have a</p> <p>13 full head of hair, it is facing everyone. We're</p> <p>14 here to talk about the increase in fare. This is</p> <p>15 another increase that's devastating that is the</p> <p>16 commerce of Staten Island which is very, very,</p> <p>17 very important. We are losing businesses from</p> <p>18 Staten Island for one simple reason because the</p> <p>19 continuous toll has increased and it will</p> <p>20 continue. And no one is coming here because of</p> <p>21 the cost of the toll.</p> <p>22 Example, the Victory Van Lines was paying</p> <p>23 95 thousand dollars for tolls for their trucks,</p> <p>24 they moved to Jersey. That was three years ago.</p> <p>25 Paladino and the people of the supermarket the</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 shows the stupidity of the Port Authority. They</p> <p>3 are stealing the APL line for one of their ports</p> <p>4 to put another one in their ports, but they don't</p> <p>5 care because they shut down the port once before</p> <p>6 thirteen years. It took them ten years to reopen</p> <p>7 ago and they will shut it down again. That's one</p> <p>8 of the problems we have which is a major, major,</p> <p>9 major, problem.</p> <p>10 They said the tolls are going up, they</p> <p>11 have to go up, but I will tell you how I feel</p> <p>12 about this. Not only do I feel that they</p> <p>13 shouldn't go up, I am a going to tell you they</p> <p>14 don't need to go up. If the Port Authority did</p> <p>15 what they said they was, we wouldn't have to</p> <p>16 raise the toll; the tolls should be going down</p> <p>17 and there would be brand new jobs.</p> <p>18 Let me just say, in all the facilities the</p> <p>19 Port Authority has between New York and New</p> <p>20 Jersey the income last year was 1 billion</p> <p>21 dollars, \$1 billion. And that was 406 million</p> <p>22 dollars, that was the profit they made. There</p> <p>23 were only two facilities they lost money out of,</p> <p>24 the Bayonne Bridge, which was 10 million dollars</p> <p>25 and imagine the New York bus station in Times</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 had recently moved to Jersey and Con Edison. And</p> <p>3 he said to me, Jim, the toll is killing me. He</p> <p>4 is in Jersey. The third largest employer on</p> <p>5 Staten Island, New York State Attorney General is</p> <p>6 using the APL line which is 37 percent of the</p> <p>7 reduction of that term and is voted to Jersey</p> <p>8 because of tolls. The steamship lines of New</p> <p>9 York last year spent \$7 million on tolls. Why</p> <p>10 would you stay here?</p> <p>11 Those tolls are going up and they are</p> <p>12 going to keep fleeing and fleeing. We are in the</p> <p>13 process now of trying to get the New York</p> <p>14 attorney general to open the third -- which is</p> <p>15 going to be a half billion dollars in</p> <p>16 construction. As of this and they are having</p> <p>17 second thoughts. They are losing shipments.</p> <p>18 They are not getting any because of tolls. This</p> <p>19 affects Staten Island, it's population.</p> <p>20 It doesn't affect Jersey, it is a win</p> <p>21 through Jersey, not through Staten Island so</p> <p>22 that's a major, major, problem. Even at travel,</p> <p>23 that truck that delivers food to the supermarket</p> <p>24 that you buy, those goods will increase in price</p> <p>25 because of those tolls. It is happening. It</p>       | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Square you know what they lost \$82 million</p> <p>3 according to this paper, I don't know how. \$82</p> <p>4 million a year.</p> <p>5 Nobody keeps a check on them. Nobody</p> <p>6 keeps a tab. \$82 million going down the drain</p> <p>7 year, after year, after year. Why, they don't</p> <p>8 know. They created a building in New Jersey they</p> <p>9 call the legal building. There was millions of</p> <p>10 dollars in that building each and every year. I</p> <p>11 say sell it, get rid of it, give it away. If you</p> <p>12 give it away, you will be saving money.</p> <p>13 The problem with the Port Authority is</p> <p>14 that they have lost their way. They should not</p> <p>15 be in the real estate business. They should not</p> <p>16 be in the real estate business. This was created</p> <p>17 -- it was created to have transportation between</p> <p>18 Jersey and New York City, New York State. That</p> <p>19 was the purpose. The purpose was not to build</p> <p>20 legal building this nonsense that nonsense. They</p> <p>21 are not in the real estate business.</p> <p>22 Just do what the business is suppose to</p> <p>23 be and we will all be in better shape. The</p> <p>24 Goethal's Bridge last year generated \$80 million</p> <p>25 net. Not gross, net. \$8 billion profit. The</p>             |

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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 outer-bridge not as much, \$72 million profit.</p> <p>3 The Bayonne Bridge lost \$10 billion. Staten</p> <p>4 Island \$107 million and those are the same people</p> <p>5 that want to increase the tolls. It is like</p> <p>6 leaving out of here and going home and giving</p> <p>7 your wife thousands of dollars and she spends it,</p> <p>8 and next week you give her thousands of dollars</p> <p>9 again. But you and her just waste it, that's</p> <p>10 what happened here.</p> <p>11 The people that got to actually help the</p> <p>12 Port Authority are being punished. They are</p> <p>13 being punished. Now, I'm going to ask a</p> <p>14 question, no one is going to answer this. How</p> <p>15 did we lose \$86 million a year at the bus at 42nd</p> <p>16 Street? How did we lose it? I don't understand</p> <p>17 that. How did you lose \$86 million a year? Is</p> <p>18 somebody walking away with it? They dropped it</p> <p>19 out of their pocket? How did we lose it? How</p> <p>20 did we lose it is not important. What's</p> <p>21 important is year, after year, after year you are</p> <p>22 losing \$86 million, let's raise the tolls.</p> <p>23 The tolls are tremendously impacting the</p> <p>24 people of Staten Island. It's unacceptable.</p> <p>25 The elect officials spoke and was given a</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 May I speak? You're going to hear that</p> <p>3 the Port Authority's operating by a \$20 billion</p> <p>4 loss based on World Trade Center costs and</p> <p>5 security of the airports. You are going to hear</p> <p>6 that they trim the fat by \$5 billion. A number</p> <p>7 that you probably won't hear from anybody else is</p> <p>8 the number that the federal government puts down</p> <p>9 as the current unemployment rate of the United</p> <p>10 States. They put out a number of 9.1. That's a</p> <p>11 false number.</p> <p>12 They leave out discouraged workers. The</p> <p>13 actual number is 16.5 percent unemployed. That</p> <p>14 means one out of every six people in the United</p> <p>15 States is currently unemployed. And another</p> <p>16 number you are probably not going to hear tonight</p> <p>17 is the fact that every dollar spent on</p> <p>18 infrastructure construction, fuels the economic</p> <p>19 engine to the tune of \$1.6 to \$5.2 billion for</p> <p>20 every dollar spent.</p> <p>21 Another thing you likely won't hear is</p> <p>22 that concrete crumbles and steel rust and when</p> <p>23 that happens it traffic delays grows</p> <p>24 exponentially. Times are hard. No one wants to</p> <p>25 pay more, but there is no such thing as a free</p> |
| Page 19   | Page 21  |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 time now, I'm winding up. The numbers are not my</p> <p>3 numbers. I didn't stay home and put them on a</p> <p>4 scrap sheet. These are the Port Authority's</p> <p>5 numbers. So I say to you write to the government</p> <p>6 and tell the government you are not being treated</p> <p>7 correctly by this organization.</p> <p>8 Is that business? There are a lot of</p> <p>9 construction jobs here on Staten Island, we can</p> <p>10 lose all of that and they don't care. Let them</p> <p>11 know what's going on here. Thank you</p> <p>12 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you Mr. Borough</p> <p>13 President, I am sorry that we had to interrupt</p> <p>14 you; however, I would like to ask the other</p> <p>15 speakers to please adhere somewhat closely to the</p> <p>16 three minute time. The next speaker will be Mike</p> <p>17 McGuire.</p> <p>18 MR. McGUIRE: Good evening. My name is</p> <p>19 Mike McGuire. I represent the laborers union.</p> <p>20 More than one thousand members of union. I</p> <p>21 represent and live in Staten Island. Now, you</p> <p>22 are going to hear a lot of numbers here tonight.</p> <p>23 I just heard a lot of numbers from the borough</p> <p>24 president none of what I see backed up by any</p> <p>25 facts, but that's what I'm here to say.</p>                                      | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 lunch. The necessary toll increase will create</p> <p>3 jobs, fix crumbling infrastructure and fuel the</p> <p>4 economic recovery our borough need. It is time</p> <p>5 we put New York City back to work. I urge the</p> <p>6 Port Authority to vote, yes. Thank you. Thank</p> <p>7 you.</p> <p>8 CITIZEN : The proposed toll increases</p> <p>9 will crush Staten Islanders. They represent the</p> <p>10 North Shore of Staten Island, an area of New York</p> <p>11 City, which is overwhelmed and overburden by vast</p> <p>12 increases in the economy. While the economy has</p> <p>13 burdened all New Yorkers Staten Island is unique.</p> <p>14 The huge increases in foreclosure is per capita</p> <p>15 in our borough the hardest.</p> <p>16 We're facing nearly one thousand job loss</p> <p>17 because of the closure of the Arthur Kill</p> <p>18 Correctional Facility. All while small</p> <p>19 businesses buildings are shutting down and</p> <p>20 hurting very, very badly. Former employees and</p> <p>21 donors of our food pantries are now the clients</p> <p>22 of those very same food pantries. Many of our</p> <p>23 residents are unemployed or underemployed and are</p> <p>24 struggling to make ends meet.</p> <p>25 But like other parts of New York</p>                  |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 City, Staten Island deals with the most</p> <p>3 underserved transportation system in the entire</p> <p>4 city. Our residents have no choice but to use</p> <p>5 cars to get to work. And the residents find it</p> <p>6 difficult to reach our businesses.</p> <p>7 And we're quickly becoming one of the most</p> <p>8 expensive. The only option for Staten Island</p> <p>9 residents who work in the New Jersey is the</p> <p>10 bridge and the high toll because there is only</p> <p>11 one bus to New Jersey and its service is limited.</p> <p>12 We are the only borough that is accessible by car</p> <p>13 without having to pay the toll. These proposed</p> <p>14 toll increases will see more small businesses</p> <p>15 close in the worse economic development as it</p> <p>16 becomes more cost prohibitive for shoppers to</p> <p>17 attend recreational or other events to travel to.</p> <p>18 There is no PATH trains in New Jersey to</p> <p>19 bring residents to Snug Harbor. There are no</p> <p>20 subways connecting other shoppers from other</p> <p>21 boroughs. Buses are fewer and far between</p> <p>22 because of the lack of service. The proposed</p> <p>23 toll hikes will affect Staten Island, yet the</p> <p>24 Port Authority is painting this issue that gives</p> <p>25 us a false choice between fare hikes and jobs.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 MR. BUTCHER: The next speaker is Anthony</p> <p>3 Fairweather followed by Mario Nickilo.</p> <p>4 MR. FAIRWEATHER: Good evening. My name</p> <p>5 is Anthony Fairweather. I am member of Local 79.</p> <p>6 As a life long resident of Staten Island I never</p> <p>7 thought I would be standing up here saying it is</p> <p>8 a good idea to raise tolls. I realize sometimes</p> <p>9 it hurts to do something that's for the</p> <p>10 betterment of all of us. That's how I view this</p> <p>11 proposal. If we are all willing to sacrifice a</p> <p>12 little to gain a lot on the bridges, tolls and</p> <p>13 road, it means there will be good paying jobs for</p> <p>14 members of my union. It means we will all be</p> <p>15 able to spend more in our community and our</p> <p>16 neighborhood businesses.</p> <p>17 These last few years have been very hard</p> <p>18 on working people, every day you hear of someone</p> <p>19 about to lose their job, health insurance and</p> <p>20 their retirement. It isn't fair. We are not</p> <p>21 asking for anything that we haven't earned that's</p> <p>22 why the toll of the Port Authority is so</p> <p>23 important. And that's all we really want, a good</p> <p>24 job, a fair day's pay for a fair day's work,</p> <p>25 health insurance and secure retirement. That's</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Jobs, especially union paying jobs is an</p> <p>3 important infrastructure development, but we</p> <p>4 cannot standby and let the story be. With all</p> <p>5 due respect my friend in laborers, the story is</p> <p>6 not if we don't have a toll hike, there will be</p> <p>7 no jobs.</p> <p>8 As our good friend counsel member</p> <p>9 testified to putting working men and women who</p> <p>10 need jobs against working families who need to</p> <p>11 get to their job is simply unfair. I couldn't</p> <p>12 agree more. The Port Authority can do better and</p> <p>13 working with those of us on Staten Island we will</p> <p>14 do better. I will wrap up in just one second.</p> <p>15 The Port Authority has an obligation to</p> <p>16 support other options including issues about</p> <p>17 seeking public/private partnerships to create</p> <p>18 jobs and minimize potential toll hikes. In</p> <p>19 conclusion any proposal must include a resident</p> <p>20 discount for Staten Islanders. A discount that</p> <p>21 is coherent and user-friendly.</p> <p>22 Staten Island is a great place to live.</p> <p>23 It is a great place to work. It is a great place</p> <p>24 to raise a family and I beg you please, don't</p> <p>25 make it impossible. Thank you.</p>   | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 what the Port Authority proposal is doing with</p> <p>3 the ten-year \$33 billion.</p> <p>4 If it means paying a little more for the</p> <p>5 toll, I am willing to do it. And I hope that you</p> <p>6 will support the proposed toll and fare increase.</p> <p>7 It will mean good things for all of us. Thank</p> <p>8 you.</p> <p>9 MR. BUTCHER: Mario Nickilo.</p> <p>10 MR. NICKILO: Local 79. I have been a</p> <p>11 member for forty years in the construction</p> <p>12 industry. Across Staten Island people are losing</p> <p>13 their homes, foreclosures are up, people are out</p> <p>14 of work. I never thought I would be standing</p> <p>15 here hoping that these tolls would get approved.</p> <p>16 The unemployment numbers are high.</p> <p>17 We're talking about fixing the Port</p> <p>18 Authority bridges and tunnels. Who would do the</p> <p>19 fixing? But the more that we need to accept that</p> <p>20 this increase is because Staten Island residents</p> <p>21 will be put to work. Which of us don't have a</p> <p>22 sister, or brother cousin or friend out of work.</p> <p>23 We found a way out of this before, let's try to</p> <p>24 do it again.</p> <p>25 The tolls would have a huge impact on</p>   |

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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Staten Island. The raising of the fare have</p> <p>3 changed how products come in and out of our</p> <p>4 ports. From that one project alone through</p> <p>5 thousands of jobs the resolution and how products</p> <p>6 passes through our port. Work on the Goethal's</p> <p>7 bridge is starting to help our economic</p> <p>8 development and job creation.</p> <p>9 It will hurt my family to pay the toll,</p> <p>10 but we need to keep in mind the cost, all of us</p> <p>11 and our neighbors are out of work. Please let</p> <p>12 this increase pass. Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. BUTCHER: New York State Senator Mike</p> <p>14 Cusick followed by Chris Wallace.</p> <p>15 MR. CUSICK: New York State Senator Mike</p> <p>16 Cusick. This morning you had a hearing and I</p> <p>17 know many of my colleagues and most people in</p> <p>18 this room spoke at it and I submitted my</p> <p>19 testimony there. Sitting in this room and</p> <p>20 listening to the speakers so far and listening to</p> <p>21 the folks outside, you sit there and you</p> <p>22 understand that it's the same issues. Everybody</p> <p>23 has the same issues, but there are two different</p> <p>24 sides to it, but both sides have the issues of</p> <p>25 jobs. These men and women want to work on the</p>  | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 the unique situation on Staten Island so we can</p> <p>3 continue this project and have these men and</p> <p>4 women work. So we can make it affordable for the</p> <p>5 folks to get to work to visit their families in</p> <p>6 New Jersey, to go on vacation wherever they want</p> <p>7 to go. But there is a way to do it.</p> <p>8 What I'm proposing, what Senator Savino's</p> <p>9 proposed to Chairman Ward. We hope to get a</p> <p>10 response before there is a decision made by your</p> <p>11 folks. You're going to raise tolls. We are</p> <p>12 hearing now it might not be as high. What we are</p> <p>13 saying is keep the resident discount at where it</p> <p>14 is right now. Keep it where it is now.</p> <p>15 But also make it easier -- to be quite</p> <p>16 honest, sir, I didn't even know Staten Islanders</p> <p>17 had a discount on the Port Authority bridges. I</p> <p>18 never crossed twenty times in thirty-five days or</p> <p>19 whatever it was. What we're asking is make it a</p> <p>20 permanent discount like the Verrazano Bridge.</p> <p>21 Any time a Staten Islander goes back and forth</p> <p>22 they get a discount. Thank you.</p> <p>23 We should include businesses. We should</p> <p>24 include businesses. This is for all of us. We</p> <p>25 should include businesses. We should have a</p> |
| Page 27  | Page 29   |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 projects that the Port Authority has.</p> <p>3 Most of the other folks want to get to</p> <p>4 work without mortgaging their house, without</p> <p>5 their kids suffering. So I'm not here to dump on</p> <p>6 the Port Authority, so to say, but just that this</p> <p>7 plan is misguided at the very least. That's why</p> <p>8 the elected officials from Staten Island are here</p> <p>9 to try to guide you through this. Staten Island</p> <p>10 is a unique place, you will hear that.</p> <p>11 I know, sir, you don't have a vote on</p> <p>12 this, but please bring this back. Staten</p> <p>13 Islanders, the only way we can get off this</p> <p>14 island is four bridges. It is one MTA bridge and</p> <p>15 your four Port Authority bridges. We need to</p> <p>16 work together to make sure that these projects --</p> <p>17 we're not being irresponsible and saying we don't</p> <p>18 think these projects need to be done without</p> <p>19 paying for it. No one knows better than a Staten</p> <p>20 Islander about paying their fair share because</p> <p>21 the people on this borough have paid their fair</p> <p>22 share for years and years and years.</p> <p>23 What we are asking and Senator Savino and I sent</p> <p>24 a letter to Chairman Ward -- what we are asking</p> <p>25 is that the Port Authority look specifically at</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 business discount that allows all businesses</p> <p>3 based on Staten Island to survive the massive</p> <p>4 tolls that they are going to be hit with when the</p> <p>5 vote comes through. Thank you for listening.</p> <p>6 Thank you, everybody.</p> <p>7 MR. BUTCHER: Mr. Wallace.</p> <p>8 MR. WALLACE: Hello, everyone. My name is</p> <p>9 Chris Wallace. I am here to represent the New</p> <p>10 York City District Counsel Carpenters. These</p> <p>11 toll hikes are going to create 3,900 construction</p> <p>12 jobs. And what I'm told 167,000 permanent jobs</p> <p>13 over a ten-year plan, capital improvement. I</p> <p>14 heard someone in politics speaking and they are</p> <p>15 concerned about the residents' discounts. Make</p> <p>16 no mistake about it, the Port Authority will</p> <p>17 include in this plan discount residents and you</p> <p>18 will be accommodated. You know that's going</p> <p>19 happen no matter how many people get up here and</p> <p>20 speak. That will happen.</p> <p>21 Right now we're just on the verge of</p> <p>22 getting the Bayonne Bridge up and running.</p> <p>23 Goethal's Bridge, the second span built and a lot</p> <p>24 of other projects that are supposed to come</p> <p>25 forth. These toll hikes will let it be a reality</p>   |



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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 instead of the excuse for us not getting it</p> <p>3 again. I would like to see the plan go through</p> <p>4 and I too have to get elected by members like the</p> <p>5 people here. And like I said it's going to</p> <p>6 happen we're going to get the relief we need. We</p> <p>7 all know that sitting here. Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. BUTCHER: Counselman Jim Oddo followed</p> <p>9 by Brian Sullivan.</p> <p>10 My name is Jim Oddo. I am a minority</p> <p>11 leader the city counsel. I represent the first</p> <p>12 counsel district in Staten Island. I am</p> <p>13 advocating the borough president with Red Bull.</p> <p>14 And that's why he had such great testimony. When</p> <p>15 the increase was first raised I, like the rest of</p> <p>16 my colleagues, were asked by the public what are</p> <p>17 you going to do to stop it? And my response was</p> <p>18 the local elected probably have less to say in</p> <p>19 this than you the public.</p> <p>20 It is your voice that the government will</p> <p>21 hear that will change this. I think it is</p> <p>22 important to get to the public the written</p> <p>23 testimony I have will submit to save us all a</p> <p>24 little mental health. Like Bloomberg who said</p> <p>25 you can have an opinion about the toll increase.</p>        | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 beyond the PATH.</p> <p>3 The second one was reasonable. I think</p> <p>4 asking and saying that you want to undertake</p> <p>5 these projects absolutely is reasonable. We get</p> <p>6 it. But to quote those rates economist and</p> <p>7 political scientist, stop looking out and start</p> <p>8 looking in as the borough president talked about.</p> <p>9 The third R was reality and all of us know that</p> <p>10 the reality is that the two governors will make</p> <p>11 this decision.</p> <p>12 As the borough president pointed out no</p> <p>13 one here is from the Port Authority who would</p> <p>14 vote, but those folks even if they are here are</p> <p>15 going to follow what the governor is saying. I</p> <p>16 hope the governors are listening to the reality</p> <p>17 out here with these folks the three R's. That's</p> <p>18 the most important.</p> <p>19 MR. SULLIVAN: My name is Brian Sullivan,</p> <p>20 Local 48 and a life long Staten Islander. Port</p> <p>21 Authority, great job and hard working men and</p> <p>22 women like myself. The Port Authority many</p> <p>23 locations around the many years which will</p> <p>24 receive once again infrastructural updates for</p> <p>25 example the eighty-year old George Washington</p>  |
| Page 31   | Page 33  |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 I do have couple of thoughts I would like to</p> <p>3 share. I just can't get over the tumultuous</p> <p>4 relationship that Staten Island has had with the</p> <p>5 Port Authority in the last several months.</p> <p>6 It just seems like yesterday we had that</p> <p>7 Easter Sunday where many of our constituents sat</p> <p>8 in their car for four and five hours. What we</p> <p>9 didn't realize until the toll increase was</p> <p>10 proposed was that was the Port Authority's</p> <p>11 version of foreplay. The real screwing was yet</p> <p>12 to come.</p> <p>13 I did some research and consistent toll</p> <p>14 increases is happening all over the country.</p> <p>15 There was a story about Illinois and there is an</p> <p>16 argument about the three R's it's toll increase.</p> <p>17 The first R was ridiculous. I have to</p> <p>18 say, I think in the year 2011 it really is</p> <p>19 ridiculous that the Port Authority still does the</p> <p>20 take out the garbage on a Friday late in August</p> <p>21 routine I think it is even more ridiculous until</p> <p>22 the elected step up was only this morning at 8</p> <p>23 a.m. I think that's also ridiculous. I also</p> <p>24 think it is ridiculous, the size of this</p> <p>25 increase, I mean 50 percent increase is really</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Bridge. The George Washington is the oldest in</p> <p>3 the United States and has not been suspended in</p> <p>4 the entire 80-year existence. Golden Gate and</p> <p>5 Triborough at least once.</p> <p>6 This record also translates into \$1</p> <p>7 billion for iron workers also for the Port</p> <p>8 Authority bus terminal. It says each fare must</p> <p>9 make two entrances to the tunnel each day. For</p> <p>10 iron workers to the transit 800 million jobs for</p> <p>11 iron worker as well as other are specialized and</p> <p>12 highly skilled trades. While the tolls will</p> <p>13 increase, it is since 2008 the New York City</p> <p>14 Transit lost, approximately, twenty thousand jobs</p> <p>15 rates in thirteen years. I see many of my</p> <p>16 friends and family members suffering from the</p> <p>17 lack of jobs and loss wages. The toll increase</p> <p>18 will alleviate that and many families in this</p> <p>19 tough economic times. Thank you.</p> <p>20 CITIZEN 2: For those of you at the</p> <p>21 hearing this morning. You heard my full</p> <p>22 testimony. It's been submitted. I am not going</p> <p>23 to go through it again. A lot more people want</p> <p>24 to speak and have the right to speak and you've</p> <p>25 already heard about. What I'm a little concerned</p> |

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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 about this debate seemed to be turning on its</p> <p>3 head. It seemed to now be about whether or not</p> <p>4 Staten Islanders are trying to deprive jobs to</p> <p>5 construction guys. That's not what this is</p> <p>6 about. This debate is about Staten Island is a</p> <p>7 working family first and foremost.</p> <p>8 We want to see other people work in</p> <p>9 building trades work on project benefit of Staten</p> <p>10 Island which is the raising of the Bayonne</p> <p>11 Bridge, which will increase our activity at</p> <p>12 container terminals and Port Elizabeth and</p> <p>13 whether it is repaired and improving the</p> <p>14 outerbridge crossing or any of the other projects</p> <p>15 including most importantly the World Trade</p> <p>16 Center. We want our construction guys to be</p> <p>17 working there everywhere else.</p> <p>18 This is not against each other. This is</p> <p>19 about an agency that wants to resolve revenue</p> <p>20 problems. And when they are faced with that they</p> <p>21 seek one place and one place only, that's all of</p> <p>22 our pockets. That's what this debate is about</p> <p>23 the nation's interstate bridges and tunnels are</p> <p>24 funded primarily by the federal government, but</p> <p>25 why not here.</p>                 | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 having the right example that's the resident</p> <p>3 discount of the Verrazano Bridge, we're looking</p> <p>4 at an upsidedown world. You need to do</p> <p>5 trigonometry figure it out. Simple resident</p> <p>6 discount per trip based on current tolls, 53</p> <p>7 percent just like the MTA and these guys can go</p> <p>8 to work.</p> <p>9 We can get to work without being robbed at</p> <p>10 the toll booths and you can find your own way to</p> <p>11 pay for these projects no matter what.</p> <p>12 CITIZEN 3: Good evening brothers and</p> <p>13 sisters, I also have got an opportunity to speak</p> <p>14 this morning. I also have my full testimony that</p> <p>15 I submitted. I am not going to repeat myself, I</p> <p>16 am just going to say that I heard some comments</p> <p>17 on Staten Island. Yes, I am from Staten Island.</p> <p>18 I live for the last decade. Yes, we have to</p> <p>19 reconstruct those bridges. We have to renew</p> <p>20 those bridges because we don't want another</p> <p>21 Minnesota to happen in Staten Island.</p> <p>22 So therefore let's not -- as painful as</p> <p>23 it is, everybody say, yes, I have to agree with</p> <p>24 my fellow Staten Islander, it is painful;</p> <p>25 however, it is going to be more painful and more</p> |
| Page 35  | Page 37   |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Why aren't we going to Washington seeking</p> <p>3 our fair share for all of these major projects;</p> <p>4 including the increase security at the World</p> <p>5 Trade Center? Why aren't we asking Washington.</p> <p>6 We only have two bridges that go somewhere, pay</p> <p>7 for that. Why would we not looking at the fact</p> <p>8 we're wasting \$87 million a year at 42nd Street.</p> <p>9 Where else are we losing money in this agency and</p> <p>10 why aren't we looking there?</p> <p>11 I talked to you this morning about other</p> <p>12 states and what they are doing. Massachusetts</p> <p>13 are wrapping their toll booths in advertisements.</p> <p>14 They are selling billboard space in Florida on</p> <p>15 the turnpike. Why aren't we looking for other</p> <p>16 revenue sources that doesn't come out of my</p> <p>17 pocket and your pocket? When are you ready to</p> <p>18 have that conversation? I know you saw me this</p> <p>19 morning and you are looking at me this evening</p> <p>20 and you have to take it back to the Port</p> <p>21 Authority. Don't be picking our pockets when</p> <p>22 they are not willing to look inside their own</p> <p>23 vote.</p> <p>24 Again I never thought I would say this</p> <p>25 publically, but when we're looking at the MTA as</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 costly when one of those bridges goes to collapse</p> <p>3 or goes to explode. How much is it going to cost</p> <p>4 then? How much is it going to cost then? My</p> <p>5 members including myself we run to World Trade</p> <p>6 Center disaster it took two hours for those to</p> <p>7 destroy them and now eight years to get it back.</p> <p>8 We can't get it back because our</p> <p>9 politicians talk about all great ideas. When it</p> <p>10 comes down to the reality, they forget. They</p> <p>11 forget. My brothers today have to go to help to</p> <p>12 get health coverage, so I get pissed off. So I</p> <p>13 wish everyone a wonderful evening. I support</p> <p>14 everyone with all my heart for my members to go</p> <p>15 back to work. Thank you.</p> <p>16 MR. LYNCH: My name is Andrew Lynch. I</p> <p>17 have a pleasure of serving the people of Staten</p> <p>18 Island. Let me -- I'm talking about the way</p> <p>19 Staten Island was treated by the government every</p> <p>20 single day. It seems like every single thing</p> <p>21 that Staten Islanders do, every service we get</p> <p>22 all the services we don't get, we continue</p> <p>23 targeting as the cash register to pay for</p> <p>24 services that go to people who live in other</p> <p>25 places.</p>   |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Let me say sometimes I've been at a</p> <p>3 hearing. I have to say Chris Wallace and I are</p> <p>4 very good friends. I agree with every single</p> <p>5 world each of my colleague and governor said.</p> <p>6 Although we are not here for the borough</p> <p>7 president's remarks. I know very well his</p> <p>8 remarks I say ditto as well. It is wrong to turn</p> <p>9 it into a question about whether or not we</p> <p>10 support the good hardworking people, we do.</p> <p>11 Don't be fooled by the Port Authority.</p> <p>12 Don't let them force you out of jobs, cost you to</p> <p>13 support your family, certain people of Staten</p> <p>14 Island. The bottom line is in this economy, the</p> <p>15 worse thing they ought to be doing is new taxes</p> <p>16 new fees and new tolls. The bottom line is when</p> <p>17 I talked to people I grew up with, people have</p> <p>18 lived their lives in Staten Island that love the</p> <p>19 soil under their feet never want to leave here,</p> <p>20 they are leaving.</p> <p>21 New York State has lost more citizen than</p> <p>22 any other state. You know why? Because every</p> <p>23 time we turn around someone tells us we have to</p> <p>24 pay more for less. It's got to stop and got to</p> <p>25 stop right now. My friends and family who love</p>            | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Staten Island shouldn't have to pay a single</p> <p>3 additional fee. Improvements to the bridges on</p> <p>4 Staten Island, that's a joke. Anyone in Staten</p> <p>5 Island could see that has not happened in</p> <p>6 decades.</p> <p>7 Economy, that's what the Port Authority</p> <p>8 said the economy. They are trying to tell us</p> <p>9 they are a few people on that bridge. That's a</p> <p>10 lie and we know it. The oil company enjoy ten</p> <p>11 percent profit margin. These bridges have</p> <p>12 provided 50 percent and more profit margins than</p> <p>13 the Port Authority in decades. The bottom line</p> <p>14 is that they want more. So I ask that you've got</p> <p>15 to ask what kind of people would take in that</p> <p>16 much money, provide that little service and then</p> <p>17 ask more. What kind of people?</p> <p>18 Here is what I will say, it can only be</p> <p>19 because they feel they are not accountable. They</p> <p>20 don't have to pay for anyone. Let me say this,</p> <p>21 if you charge Staten Island one penny more to go</p> <p>22 over bridges you're going to answer to Andrew</p> <p>23 Lanza. We in Staten Island are the board</p> <p>24 members.</p> <p>25 I am telling you for all the people in</p>  |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Staten Island they talk about the increased cost</p> <p>3 of living here, things like paying more for your</p> <p>4 taxes on everything that you do, whether it is</p> <p>5 phone, the heat or gas, whether it's to buy food,</p> <p>6 whether it's to stay in your house, whether it is</p> <p>7 to pay rent.</p> <p>8 The bottom line when they look around and</p> <p>9 said we are the only place in the region where</p> <p>10 you have to pay to come and go to where you live</p> <p>11 and work, it is wrong. It is an economy. You</p> <p>12 want to see it come up and it produce jobs. Then</p> <p>13 we are putting more fees and burdens on the</p> <p>14 hardworking middle class people that call</p> <p>15 themselves Staten Islanders who pay your salary,</p> <p>16 who pay my salary. When they hear they got to</p> <p>17 pay more for a bridge, more, we're leaving, we're</p> <p>18 going. North Carolina, Delaware, Maryland, New</p> <p>19 Jersey, even, Arizona that's not going to get you</p> <p>20 guys job, we want to get you jobs.</p> <p>21 When you get jobs and opportunity you</p> <p>22 lower the burden, you lower the tax structure.</p> <p>23 Here is another thing I want to say. I see the</p> <p>24 time is short. I written testimony, I written</p> <p>25 couple letters. I agree with the fact that</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Staten Island. I will not vote to confirm a</p> <p>3 single board member that takes part in a fare</p> <p>4 increase. The governor said no fees, no taxes.</p> <p>5 The people of Staten Island to reach in their</p> <p>6 pockets to pay for more a service, it is a fee, a</p> <p>7 tax call it what you want, ask the governor to</p> <p>8 veto. He ought to go on the record and tell us</p> <p>9 what he thinks. He said no fees, no taxes. The</p> <p>10 only way he would have kept his word is if he</p> <p>11 vetoed any fare increase you guys put up</p> <p>12 MR. RYNKIEWICZ: Chaz Rynkiewicz member of</p> <p>13 Local 79. I lived in Bay Ridge Brooklyn for</p> <p>14 twenty years. I lived in Staten Island for well</p> <p>15 over a decade. I live in Middlesex County for,</p> <p>16 approximately, a decade. I know all about the</p> <p>17 bridges and tolls. I am very familiar with them.</p> <p>18 I am here to speak in favor of the Port</p> <p>19 Authority's plan and I'm going to tell you why.</p> <p>20 One of the most important things a great city has</p> <p>21 is a infrastructure, no great city can survive</p> <p>22 without great infrastructure. There was a train</p> <p>23 derailment last week where it took people hours</p> <p>24 and hours to come to work.</p> <p>25 Major businesses will not come to the city</p> |

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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 and leave the city if our structure is not sound,</p> <p>3 secure, solid and effective so we need to make</p> <p>4 sure that is. I heard politicians saying here</p> <p>5 today it is us against him. It is not us, a</p> <p>6 Staten Island issue or New Jersey issue. This is</p> <p>7 the issue for everybody involved in the New York,</p> <p>8 New Jersey area. That's why it is the Port</p> <p>9 Authority of New York and New Jersey. It is</p> <p>10 going on all over the place.</p> <p>11 You can't think small, you have to think</p> <p>12 big. This is the biggest best city in the word,</p> <p>13 let's keep it that way. Let's keep those</p> <p>14 bridges. We're going too backwards I don't want</p> <p>15 to go backwards I want to go forward that's why I</p> <p>16 support this plan.</p> <p>17 CITIZEN 4: I know the calendar says</p> <p>18 August 16th, but is it April 1st, as I'm sitting</p> <p>19 here, are we all fools? You know what we're all</p> <p>20 wasting our time right now, this is nice theatre.</p> <p>21 We're sitting here and lodging a tennis ball this</p> <p>22 way and a tennis ball that way. We support you</p> <p>23 and your working families. We support everything</p> <p>24 that every single one of you have said tonight.</p> <p>25 This is not about us against them and shame on</p>                                | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 said --</p> <p>3 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you. Michael</p> <p>4 Grello.</p> <p>5 MR. GRELO: Good evening. My name</p> <p>6 is Mike Grello. I am here tonight on behalf of</p> <p>7 the building trade counsel of greater New York.</p> <p>8 The building and construction trade counsel of</p> <p>9 greater New York which consists of local</p> <p>10 affiliates of fifteen national and international</p> <p>11 unions representing a hundred thousand working</p> <p>12 men and women in the five boroughs of New York</p> <p>13 City endorses the toll and fare increase proposed</p> <p>14 on the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.</p> <p>15 We support this effort to give the Port Authority</p> <p>16 the resources needed to maintain and improve the</p> <p>17 transportation infrastructure. The Port</p> <p>18 Authority's history of investments in bridges,</p> <p>19 tunnels, mass transit and air travel has been</p> <p>20 essential to establishing our region as a global</p> <p>21 center of economic growth and job creation.</p> <p>22 We can afford nothing else than continuing</p> <p>23 this strong tradition. Without these tolls and</p> <p>24 fare increases 3,900 jobs will be lost and 483</p> <p>25 million in the Port Authority capital spending</p>     |
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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 you Port Authority for manipulating.</p> <p>3 And I know some of you want to and just because</p> <p>4 you wear it on your shirt doesn't mean you are</p> <p>5 not allowed to -- you want to hear something that</p> <p>6 you want to agree with. This is a waste of time.</p> <p>7 No one up here can vote. It is a spit in our</p> <p>8 face not only spit in our face for all the people</p> <p>9 from Staten Island and all the people from Jersey</p> <p>10 here tonight and all the people from Brooklyn,</p> <p>11 Bronx and Queens and whatever else, it is</p> <p>12 America. Welcome to Staten Island, okay. It is</p> <p>13 a beautiful thing, but it is a disgrace. This is</p> <p>14 an utter embarrassment, disgrace.</p> <p>15 Democracy is not working tonight and we</p> <p>16 are all the victims of democracy not working</p> <p>17 tonight. And don't be fooled, all of these</p> <p>18 things that need to be fixed who owns a house</p> <p>19 here, okay you are a homeowner you know when you</p> <p>20 need a new roof or change a pipe or fix a leaky</p> <p>21 faucet, you don't wake up in the middle of an</p> <p>22 economy and say oh my gosh we have to do all of</p> <p>23 this. It is irresponsibility, utter corruption</p> <p>24 at the Port Authority. And it is disgusting that</p> <p>25 we're allowing that to manipulate us. With that</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 will not happen in 2011 alone. In addition these</p> <p>3 tolls and fare increases will help fund the Port</p> <p>4 Authority ten-year, \$33 billion capital plan and</p> <p>5 generate more than a 167 through jobs many of</p> <p>6 which are in construction.</p> <p>7 The construction industry in New York City</p> <p>8 has lost 26,400 jobs since 2008 and is suffering</p> <p>9 it's lowest employment in thirteen years. In</p> <p>10 this weak economic, it is particularly important</p> <p>11 that we support responsible proposals to</p> <p>12 investments in public infrastructure. That is</p> <p>13 the foundation of the private sector, economic</p> <p>14 development and job creation. These toll</p> <p>15 increases represent such a proposal that we urge</p> <p>16 the board of commissioners to support them.</p> <p>17 Thank you.</p> <p>18 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you. Will Smith</p> <p>19 followed by Anthony Brocker.</p> <p>20 MR. SMITH: Good evening. My name is</p> <p>21 William Smith. I am the director for Michael</p> <p>22 Grim who represents Staten Island and congress.</p> <p>23 The congress presents his apologies. But the</p> <p>24 congressman asked me to speak personally with you</p> <p>25 today with regard to concerns we discussed to</p> |

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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Port Authority plan to increase the tolls at its</p> <p>3 crossings, which include three bridges at New</p> <p>4 York and our only link to Connecticut.</p> <p>5 These increase will be up to a record \$12</p> <p>6 and \$14 in 2014 only if you use E-ZPass. For</p> <p>7 those paying cash \$17. Staten Island is the only</p> <p>8 borough in the State of New York that is</p> <p>9 restricted solely to bridge use in order to get</p> <p>10 in and out by automobile. Therefore this toll</p> <p>11 affects no one more than the residents of New</p> <p>12 Jersey or New York, than the residents from</p> <p>13 Staten Island. The simple Bay Ridge Bridge will</p> <p>14 cost \$28 if this proposal goes through in 2011.</p> <p>15 \$28 payable to the MTA and Port Authority across</p> <p>16 Staten Island. Yet a driver can travel 128 miles</p> <p>17 from Bay Ridge to the tip of Montauk without a</p> <p>18 simple toll.</p> <p>19 Our friends of New Jersey have three</p> <p>20 options to drive 157 to the southern end of New</p> <p>21 Jersey to Cape May without paying a single toll.</p> <p>22 Where is the justice in that? Constituents</p> <p>23 especially homeowners and small business owners</p> <p>24 have reached out to the congressman office to</p> <p>25 express their concerns about how this will affect</p>                                 | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 reevaluate the pricing scheme and stop placing</p> <p>3 the burden on Staten Island. It is time to say</p> <p>4 enough. Thank you.</p> <p>5 MR. BUTCHER: Anthony Demarco.</p> <p>6 MR. DEMARCO: My name is Anthony Demarco,</p> <p>7 proud member of 157. I'm born in Brooklyn, New</p> <p>8 York been through Staten Island for three years</p> <p>9 next twenty years in New Jersey. I commute to</p> <p>10 work every day. I pay full price every day</p> <p>11 coming here and the bridges and tolls is a</p> <p>12 decision that might have to be made. It is</p> <p>13 important for the city. Without the</p> <p>14 infrastructure, that's the main lifeline of the</p> <p>15 city for businesses for us who commute every day,</p> <p>16 the appreciation of jobs is the most important</p> <p>17 thing. Jobs are very important. People need</p> <p>18 jobs. Thank you and I hope you support us.</p> <p>19 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you. Charles Staffers</p> <p>20 followed by Amanda O'hara.</p> <p>21 MR. Staffers: First of all, one thing</p> <p>22 that they were wrong about, you don't wake up</p> <p>23 tomorrow morning and find out that your house</p> <p>24 cost 60 percent more so the World Trade Center</p> <p>25 doesn't cost you 60 percent more. Pay for what</p>                    |
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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Staten Island. Staten Island residents have</p> <p>3 brothers, sister, parents or family in the</p> <p>4 neighboring state. Just yesterday our office</p> <p>5 heard from a fixed income senior day trip to New</p> <p>6 Jersey to see her friends for lunch are long</p> <p>7 gone. When you couple these are the highest</p> <p>8 taxes and restrictions in New York. They need to</p> <p>9 give considerable thought to less restrictive</p> <p>10 commuting. This proposal is a killer for</p> <p>11 economic development on Staten Island. You may</p> <p>12 as well hang a sign on the bridge saying Staten</p> <p>13 Island is closed for business. For years the</p> <p>14 boroughs has subsidized payments in New Jersey and</p> <p>15 Staten Island PATH train. The Port Authority</p> <p>16 cost more an a New York City subway ride and</p> <p>17 schedule to be a 173 deficit not including a \$400</p> <p>18 million capital budget. Staten Island business</p> <p>19 line is virtually non-existent. We've been</p> <p>20 waiting 80 years for a rail connection over the</p> <p>21 Bayonne Bridge. Staten Island has been picking</p> <p>22 up the tax for Manhattan and New Jersey riders</p> <p>23 according to the study. The Staten Island</p> <p>24 crossing has been generating \$4.8 billion now</p> <p>25 over forty years. It is time the Port Authority</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 you use. If it cost \$5 or \$10 or whatever it</p> <p>3 cost to build a bridge to replace tables, to pay</p> <p>4 people to work on the bridges, whatever it is,</p> <p>5 pay for that. Don't pay to subsidize buildings</p> <p>6 into Jersey, garages in Manhattan if it cost \$82</p> <p>7 million a year more to subsidize a garage in</p> <p>8 Manhattan. Let the people who use it pay for it.</p> <p>9 Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. BUTCHER: Amanda O'hara</p> <p>11 MS. O'HARA: My name is Amanda O'Hara. I</p> <p>12 am a Staten Island resident. A navy widow mom of</p> <p>13 twins. And I'm representing my pocket. I don't</p> <p>14 have it. I work. I raise my children and I do</p> <p>15 it on my own. I'm an artist. I often seek out</p> <p>16 jobs all over and anywhere. If this proposed</p> <p>17 toll increase is put through, I will be made a</p> <p>18 prisoner and my husband died fighting for that</p> <p>19 freedom.</p> <p>20 The inability to even take my children to</p> <p>21 a short trip, an amusement park or even go ahead</p> <p>22 and take that job in Jersey, it is just not worth</p> <p>23 it. I don't have it. If the toll increases goes</p> <p>24 up, I will say no. It is not like I'm going to</p> <p>25 be able to stay on Staten Island and take use of</p> |

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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 my water or beaches. Unfortunately, I'm unable</p> <p>3 to not that that's your problem. We all have</p> <p>4 problems and challenges we are all in an</p> <p>5 economical downfall, but I am telling you I don't</p> <p>6 have it. I just don't have it. And I am in</p> <p>7 support of the jobs for the unions. Half of</p> <p>8 these men and women frequented my mother's small</p> <p>9 business for thirty-one years in Port Richmond,</p> <p>10 which just recently she sold because we can no</p> <p>11 longer do business.</p> <p>12 People don't come to Staten Island knowing</p> <p>13 that they are going to have to pay that for a</p> <p>14 beer or a hamburger, now, you just tacked on \$22.</p> <p>15 I don't have it. And I am saying yes, you have a</p> <p>16 deficit and a problem to solve just look</p> <p>17 elsewhere. Staten Islander's, we don't have</p> <p>18 either.</p> <p>19 --- good evening brothers and sisters and</p> <p>20 fine folks. I am here to represent my union. I</p> <p>21 have been a Staten Island resident almost thirty</p> <p>22 years now. Me and my family have ignored</p> <p>23 increases in the past. I know that they have</p> <p>24 gotten high. I really feel that the hole is</p> <p>25 greater than some of its part. We have every</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 family and help me pay my mortgage and put food</p> <p>3 on my table, I am all for it. And I hope you get</p> <p>4 your increase.</p> <p>5 MR. BUTCHER: Linda Barron</p> <p>6 MS. BARRON: I am Linda Barron, president</p> <p>7 and CEO of Staten Island Chamber of Commerce. I</p> <p>8 would like to thank you for the opportunity to</p> <p>9 speak on the proposal and increase to the toll.</p> <p>10 You know, the committee, Port Authority</p> <p>11 commission. I will repeat, for those who aren't</p> <p>12 aware to enhance the bridges and prosperity, to</p> <p>13 provide transportation service that envision new</p> <p>14 people facility access in the world.</p> <p>15 These toll increases will further isolate</p> <p>16 people and businesses of Staten Island. To the</p> <p>17 borough president the proposal on consideration</p> <p>18 is a contrast with the agency's mission. In</p> <p>19 every real sense Staten Island's business</p> <p>20 community is becoming an island within the</p> <p>21 island. Isolated from the rest of New York City</p> <p>22 by the MTA on Verrazano Narrows Bridge and on the</p> <p>23 cusp of being cut off from New Jersey and the</p> <p>24 rest of the country by Port Authority.</p> <p>25 Our businesses simply cannot compete</p>  |
| Page 51   | Page 53   |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 faith in the Port Authority that they will go</p> <p>3 ahead and continue to make these improvements on</p> <p>4 other infrastructure. And that they will promote</p> <p>5 this job growth that they say they will. Because</p> <p>6 we all need to work and our infrastructures are</p> <p>7 in need of repair so is our economy especially at</p> <p>8 this time.</p> <p>9 And the only thing I can say about these</p> <p>10 holes and people complaining especially the</p> <p>11 people who have to travel back and forth in New</p> <p>12 Jersey, they are the same people they want to</p> <p>13 visit the beautiful Jersey Shores.</p> <p>14 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you. Eugene Sparano</p> <p>15 followed by Linda Baron.</p> <p>16 MR. SPARANO: Good morning, my name is</p> <p>17 Eugene Sparano. I commute from New Jersey every</p> <p>18 day to go to work in New Jersey and the five</p> <p>19 boroughs, Staten Island, Manhattan, Queens, the</p> <p>20 Bronx. I have been paying the toll increases.</p> <p>21 They increase the toll on the MTA Bridge. I have</p> <p>22 to do that so I can come to New York and pay my</p> <p>23 bills.</p> <p>24 If the Port Authority wants to give more</p> <p>25 jobs to my men and myself and help me feed my</p>                                  | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 outside of the borough. Smaller commercial</p> <p>3 vehicles are required to pay up to \$34 round trip</p> <p>4 or a larger vehicle could be paying in excess of</p> <p>5 \$28 for a round trip. Construction and other</p> <p>6 companies that want to offer service must bill</p> <p>7 into the price at the cost of the tolls. As a</p> <p>8 result local companies that are being asked to</p> <p>9 pay more money simply will not be able to go out</p> <p>10 and hire employees. So it will ultimately</p> <p>11 relieve the toll or go out of business.</p> <p>12 In addition, our local economy which is</p> <p>13 turning off our residents from seeking employment</p> <p>14 here and shopping at local establishment aren't</p> <p>15 taking advantage of the many, many amenities</p> <p>16 Staten Island has to offer. Staten Island hasn't</p> <p>17 many public transportation alternatives. Our</p> <p>18 residents have no other choice but to drive. We</p> <p>19 cannot get to work or get to Newark area or metro</p> <p>20 park without a car.</p> <p>21 According to the highway administration,</p> <p>22 more revenue is generated from the four bridges</p> <p>23 across Staten Island than in 43 other states.</p> <p>24 There is no free lunch here on Staten Island.</p> <p>25 The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce recognizes</p> |

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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 that the Port Authority does not receive the tax</p> <p>3 revenues that they receive by the MTA making the</p> <p>4 infrastructure the primary infrastructure</p> <p>5 process.</p> <p>6 We understand the importance of moving</p> <p>7 forward with a backup plan that would create</p> <p>8 significant amount of jobs to work the</p> <p>9 significant revenue should not be on the vast of</p> <p>10 community paying the highest toll in the nation.</p> <p>11 Until Staten Island talks about public transit</p> <p>12 options, it simply cannot accept these increase</p> <p>13 in the proposal. What they need for project in</p> <p>14 the absence of federal funding -- the Port</p> <p>15 Authority I do commend them for looking for</p> <p>16 innovative alternative findings and solutions</p> <p>17 such as public/private partnerships looking to be</p> <p>18 used and replaced.</p> <p>19 They need to do a lot more and they are</p> <p>20 not doing it. They must not impose toll to our</p> <p>21 community who simply cannot stand the toll</p> <p>22 increases. Finally, the government have come</p> <p>23 together to support the Port Authority mission.</p> <p>24 Continue to subsidize other progress rather than</p> <p>25 being regional activity, community life. Staten</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 I was born and raised on Staten Island. I'm 84.</p> <p>3 I remember riding Hyland Boulevard there wasn't</p> <p>4 even a stop sign to New Dorp Lane. There wasn't</p> <p>5 even a stop sign. So I've seen this community</p> <p>6 grow. And these orange shirts, what makes them</p> <p>7 think we're against them, we're not against them.</p> <p>8 We want to help you, but we hope you want to help</p> <p>9 us. Why is New York City the highest toll</p> <p>10 marketer in this country? Why? I saw a</p> <p>11 commercial about five years ago at the Verrazano</p> <p>12 bridge and it had a commercial of a motorcycle</p> <p>13 Suzuki, I think, or whatever is the name and the</p> <p>14 toll at that time was \$10. They were trying to</p> <p>15 hide the sign because nobody would believe them,</p> <p>16 but we believe them. You were taking in, the</p> <p>17 people in the orange shirts by the Port</p> <p>18 Authority.</p> <p>19 We've got your same fight. And you fell</p> <p>20 for that line and I'm surprised that you're union</p> <p>21 leaders didn't see through it. I have one more</p> <p>22 thing to say. We're looking for a discount, a</p> <p>23 good discount. The Port Authority's employees</p> <p>24 get one, don't they? They don't pay. You want</p> <p>25 to know what's bad, I work thirty years for Getty</p> |
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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Island will continue to get squeezed out.</p> <p>3 MR. BUTCHER: Pearl Menisky.</p> <p>4 MR. MENISKY: My name is Pearl Menisky</p> <p>5 from Staten Island to Queens to Long Island.</p> <p>6 Anyone that comes to my funeral is going to get</p> <p>7 soaked crossing the bridges to come. It is going</p> <p>8 to cost me to go to my grave site. I walked</p> <p>9 plenty of picket lines. I belong to a union.</p> <p>10 They have put you against us and us against you.</p> <p>11 I am not against you. I have members of my</p> <p>12 family from unions. I am in favor. I am so far</p> <p>13 left I'm on the side of California.</p> <p>14 I am in favor of unions. You are not</p> <p>15 listening. The borough president had a point,</p> <p>16 but the PA has much more your grandchildren will</p> <p>17 be fixing those in the future. I want you to</p> <p>18 know if you have a picket line, you aren't going</p> <p>19 to go to Washington DC or Albany or just setup a</p> <p>20 picket line in front of the bridges so the cars</p> <p>21 can go through full way. I will be the first</p> <p>22 one. I will hold the sign and I will walk.</p> <p>23 MR. BUTCHER: Brian Sullivan, Neil</p> <p>24 Lucchesi.</p> <p>25 MR. LUCCHESI: My name is Neal Lucchesi.</p>                          | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 and I am still paying for my gas.</p> <p>3 CITIZEN 5: I lived in Staten Island my</p> <p>4 entire life. I was at the meeting this morning I</p> <p>5 don't want to repeat myself. I have a couple</p> <p>6 comments for this evening. I know you said there</p> <p>7 was no questions and answer, I do have two</p> <p>8 questions. I do have time, my time, are they</p> <p>9 peak or non-peak time. And the second question</p> <p>10 is when you repair the cables on the George</p> <p>11 Washington Bridge do you use the old one as a</p> <p>12 noose to hang the people for Staten Island.</p> <p>13 Yep this is the place, fifteen years I was</p> <p>14 here in this room and Port Authority was here and</p> <p>15 they asked about toll increases and they got them</p> <p>16 because they told us they were going to build a</p> <p>17 new Goethal's Bridge. So when you believe that</p> <p>18 this toll increase goes through and you are</p> <p>19 getting jobs. Think about this. You need the</p> <p>20 governor to put their hand to veto this. Put</p> <p>21 your hands up and say veto.</p> <p>22 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you. Dorri Espinwal</p> <p>23 CITIZEN 6: What I would like to say I've</p> <p>24 worked with numbers almost my whole career. When</p> <p>25 I crunch the numbers I've paid myself over the</p>                     |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 last couple years having adult parents who need</p> <p>3 my help and live in Brooklyn. Besides me go</p> <p>4 going back to work. That's where they chose for</p> <p>5 me. I have two adult children and my spouse. We</p> <p>6 travel to Brooklyn almost six times a week. I</p> <p>7 spend over \$2,400 a year on E-ZPass because I get</p> <p>8 my statements every two months. I moved to</p> <p>9 Staten Island in 1982 because this is where I</p> <p>10 wanted to bring up my family. I thought this is</p> <p>11 where I wanted to retire.</p> <p>12 This is the age for me to retire and I am</p> <p>13 thinking about where I want to go. If I'm going</p> <p>14 to spend \$10,000 since 1992. That's almost twice</p> <p>15 as much of what I paid for my house when I came</p> <p>16 here in 1982. I hope you people were not paid</p> <p>17 off to put the orange shirts on. I got three</p> <p>18 calls from union people today that said I would</p> <p>19 not put that shirt on because I'm not going to</p> <p>20 pay more out of tolls and still be out of work.</p> <p>21 If you think you are going to be working</p> <p>22 two years from now, I bet you and if you are</p> <p>23 working you will be lucky. It has a lot to do</p> <p>24 with the economy not because the Port Authority</p> <p>25 is going to do this or do that. You are not</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 we are all thinking about options because we</p> <p>3 can't afford to keep spending \$150,000 over</p> <p>4 fifteen years to go back and forth. It is</p> <p>5 impossible. We can't do it. We can't do that.</p> <p>6 I can't buy a little thing for my grandkids</p> <p>7 because I have to cross the bridge three more</p> <p>8 times. Think about it, sometimes two times in</p> <p>9 one day I go to work and come home. Then my</p> <p>10 mother, I have to go across the bridge. That's</p> <p>11 all I have to say. It is ridiculous. Look at</p> <p>12 all your options first before you start burning</p> <p>13 the people. There is no guarantee you are going</p> <p>14 to get work out of this.</p> <p>15 MS. ASPINWAL: My name is Gloria Aspinwal,</p> <p>16 a native of Staten Island, a retired banker. I</p> <p>17 remember my mother and aunt telling me they rode</p> <p>18 with their dad over the opening of the</p> <p>19 outerbridge of Goethal's Bridge. Ad told them</p> <p>20 once the bridge was paid for there would be no</p> <p>21 tolls. Also, I want to know if there is a</p> <p>22 ten-year plan, does that mean no more toll</p> <p>23 increases for ten years? With all due respect, I</p> <p>24 resent the fact that one agency can hold half a</p> <p>25 million people hostage.</p>   |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 guaranteed a job. When you get up every morning</p> <p>3 and get out and find something else to do even if</p> <p>4 it is to wash dishes. I did anything I had to do</p> <p>5 to take care of my family. Don't make people</p> <p>6 make you puppets. Puppeteers are making you</p> <p>7 puppets. We're on your side, I want you to be</p> <p>8 working. I haven't been working three years, I'm</p> <p>9 out of work. I can't find work, but I survived</p> <p>10 it because I did whatever I had to do while I was</p> <p>11 on my way up. That's what I think. You</p> <p>12 should be ashamed of yourself that not one board</p> <p>13 member or director is going to vote on this.</p> <p>14 They're probably not here going across the bridge</p> <p>15 because they are probably five minutes from their</p> <p>16 house. I know there are people here I that love,</p> <p>17 grew to love over the years in Staten Island I</p> <p>18 fell for them 110 percent.</p> <p>19 This is my president, not Obama. This is</p> <p>20 my president. When he spoke, he spoke to</p> <p>21 everyone, the man the regular guy from the</p> <p>22 street. And he helps Staten Island more than</p> <p>23 anybody I ever knew. Like I said, I came here to</p> <p>24 raise my family.</p> <p>25 My kids are raising their family here, but</p>                                | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 If you have a private company and could</p> <p>3 not balance your budget sufficiently, you would</p> <p>4 be out of business. Staten Islanders have</p> <p>5 reached the point of no return. And with all due</p> <p>6 respect to the union people, you can work and pay</p> <p>7 these increases. These are people that are not</p> <p>8 employed that do not have the ability to work on</p> <p>9 infrastructure. And it is -- I am demanding, of</p> <p>10 the politicians and the Port Authority, I truly</p> <p>11 believe the Port Authority totally needs to be</p> <p>12 replaced. It is out of control. I also found</p> <p>13 some facts today that says the average pay for</p> <p>14 Port Authority employees is \$90,000. The</p> <p>15 afternoon median for Staten Island is \$67,000</p> <p>16 with a quarter of Staten Islanders making under</p> <p>17 \$35,000. It is not fair. The Port Authority has</p> <p>18 increased compensation \$2.1 million even though</p> <p>19 the work force is smaller, not right.</p> <p>20 CITIZEN 7: I am with Local 79. I back</p> <p>21 this Port Authority. I feel the Port Authority's</p> <p>22 plan creates jobs for people who need them.</p> <p>23 Thank you. I am -a member of Local 79. We</p> <p>24 should increase the fare we could end up like</p> <p>25 Minnesota and end up having a bridge collapse. I</p> |



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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 feel safe with all the bridges being repaired.</p> <p>3 That's all.</p> <p>4 My name is Steve Harris. I also represent</p> <p>5 the Local 79. I'm going to try to keep this</p> <p>6 short and sweet. I feel if we don't pay for</p> <p>7 upgrades and you know, work on the bridges and</p> <p>8 tunnels now, I think later on, you know, we're</p> <p>9 going to pay higher. You know, things are going</p> <p>10 to happen, deterioration. I think it is</p> <p>11 something we should take care of now. I am in</p> <p>12 support of Port Authority Capital Plan. Thank</p> <p>13 you.</p> <p>14 CITIZEN 8: It is really nothing short of</p> <p>15 disgusting not one single Port Authority board</p> <p>16 member that could find the time to come here.</p> <p>17 Maybe they just wanted to avoid paying the toll.</p> <p>18 Aren't you ashamed or embarrassed you don't even</p> <p>19 seem like you care, Ernesto. You make a decent</p> <p>20 salary all of which is paid for by the toll</p> <p>21 payers instead of coming here and starting your</p> <p>22 remarks by saying thank you for paying my salary.</p> <p>23 You wind up having the back for no</p> <p>24 additional growth in the operating budget. And</p> <p>25 you told the borough president to shut up even</p>                                  | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 It's an amazement that the Port Authority</p> <p>3 never sought, at least that I heard, to explore</p> <p>4 this is selling advertisements on all the Port</p> <p>5 Authority properties. I know the senators has</p> <p>6 mentioned this before. If you make a little</p> <p>7 baseball or football league then it is a good</p> <p>8 idea. Why can't the Port Authority do the same</p> <p>9 thing?</p> <p>10 I love the idea of outerbridge crossing at</p> <p>11 Goethal's Bridge. But if your chose is that or</p> <p>12 this kind of increase sell the advertisement.</p> <p>13 The other thing that I think is interesting is</p> <p>14 that they are singling out those with green</p> <p>15 vehicles to be exempt from the toll increases.</p> <p>16 It is interesting because those -- that is one</p> <p>17 class of people that you chose to single out.</p> <p>18 Now, why not extend that to perhaps senior</p> <p>19 citizens who have to go to Manhattan to see a</p> <p>20 specialist because they are suffering from</p> <p>21 something or those that live below the poverty</p> <p>22 line? And additionally the last thing I will</p> <p>23 mention is I know you are not taking questions,</p> <p>24 but I think it is incumbent upon you to inform</p> <p>25 the public when the toll increases were discussed</p> |
| Page 63   | Page 65   |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 though he organized this hearing. You have to</p> <p>3 have some shame and the process which this comes</p> <p>4 to be. It really seems this is how previous toll</p> <p>5 increases come to pass which has always been hand</p> <p>6 in hand with a detailed capital plan and it seems</p> <p>7 like this is more about trying to please your</p> <p>8 credit rating agency, Moody's. Moody's is not</p> <p>9 elected by anyone they are comparable to almost</p> <p>10 none.</p> <p>11 They make all their money by rating the</p> <p>12 very same entities that they are in charge of</p> <p>13 that pay them. And why let them dictate your</p> <p>14 behavior in such a manner? All we heard is the</p> <p>15 same argument on a national level and downgraded</p> <p>16 the United States credit. People still are</p> <p>17 buying treasury bonds. People are not buying</p> <p>18 Port Authority bonds. Don't be a fool.</p> <p>19 Don't let Moody's try to be the tail that</p> <p>20 wags the dog. I know a lot of folks are talking</p> <p>21 about the horrible impact this level of increase</p> <p>22 is going to have on Staten Islanders all that is</p> <p>23 true, but I consider what I hope would be</p> <p>24 constructive suggestion as alternatives are in</p> <p>25 addition to these fare hikes.</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 and when they decide it was necessary.</p> <p>3 For those of us that they said they had no</p> <p>4 idea it was going to happen. It's like</p> <p>5 Casablanca he was shocked to see gambling in the</p> <p>6 casino. I think you owe us that.</p> <p>7 MR. BUTCHER: Janine Materina followed by</p> <p>8 Joseph Pamilla.</p> <p>9 MS. MATERINA: Hi. Unfortunately there is</p> <p>10 not one voting member here from Port Authority.</p> <p>11 Port Authority is going to raise our toll, one</p> <p>12 Port Authority hearing tonight to listen to our</p> <p>13 voices or concerns. I think that's a real shame.</p> <p>14 CITIZEN 9: I currently represent 200</p> <p>15 members this evening. I am here this evening to</p> <p>16 express my deep concern you're raising fares.</p> <p>17 Please make sure this gets back. I am absolutely</p> <p>18 outraged this evening with the proposal for a</p> <p>19 toll hike. What is just an insults is that the</p> <p>20 Port Authority tried to sneak in a meeting in a</p> <p>21 location out of the way in the middle of our</p> <p>22 workday.</p> <p>23 And the Port Authority is stabbing us in</p> <p>24 the back with their toll hike and slapping our</p> <p>25 faces at a public hearing that I to seek attend</p>  |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 this evening. This meeting here tonight is being</p> <p>3 held because our elected official this evening</p> <p>4 called the Port Authority on their underhanded</p> <p>5 tactics. I thank you all very much for calling</p> <p>6 this meeting. It goes to show you how out of</p> <p>7 touch the Port Authority is to the people of</p> <p>8 Staten Island. If they were in touch with people</p> <p>9 of Staten Island, they would know that Staten</p> <p>10 Island suffers from the longest -- in the nation.</p> <p>11 Shame on you Port Authority. I hope in the</p> <p>12 meeting that those impacted voice their concerns.</p> <p>13 Some people traveled or two hours from midtown</p> <p>14 Manhattan to get here to voice their concerns.</p> <p>15 The Port Authority is very well aware of</p> <p>16 the affect recent toll. We don't have to take</p> <p>17 it, people. People, voice your opinions. So</p> <p>18 let's stay to together as a unified course and</p> <p>19 additional unit and really be heard. I call the</p> <p>20 elected official to continue the fight whether</p> <p>21 Democrat or Republican tap with us in the meeting</p> <p>22 of the needs of Staten Islanders. A meeting at</p> <p>23 7:30 paying the toll.</p> <p>24 Personally speaking, I have worked for</p> <p>25 consulting firms for the past six years or more.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 MR. CANPOVERDE: Good evening, ladies and</p> <p>3 gentlemen. I am here from Local 78. I'm going</p> <p>4 to all those parts of the city and neighborhoods</p> <p>5 and New Jersey in order to pay all the tolls and</p> <p>6 I'm okay with that because I'm going to my</p> <p>7 family, waiting for me to cross the bridge. I'm</p> <p>8 supporting the proposal because this is creating</p> <p>9 more jobs. It is a good way to bring the company</p> <p>10 a little offer jobs. There are people -- I have</p> <p>11 lots of friends who lose jobs every day and</p> <p>12 that's why I'm here to support it. Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. BUTCHER: Annette Battista followed by</p> <p>14 Danny Panzella.</p> <p>15 MS. BATTISTA: You see I'm old so I have a</p> <p>16 hard time. I am here to represent the people who</p> <p>17 are older people who are just living on social</p> <p>18 security. Now, we have to travel into the city</p> <p>19 for our specialist and everything and I know the</p> <p>20 Port Authority people executives make a lot of</p> <p>21 money, thanks to us. And now have big pensions</p> <p>22 when they retire. But there are many of us who</p> <p>23 are just on social security and you should have</p> <p>24 compassion for those seniors who have to travel</p> <p>25 in to see their specialist. Thank you.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 I would love to offer you my company to help you</p> <p>3 run your company more efficiently and more</p> <p>4 effectively. I ask the Port Authority processes</p> <p>5 that will cut costs and help brand Staten Island</p> <p>6 not burden. We want people here in the orange</p> <p>7 shirts to be employed, but it is not Port</p> <p>8 Authority that can provide the jobs for you, it</p> <p>9 is the federal government, called Washington,</p> <p>10 come up here to Staten Island and petition our</p> <p>11 discount here in Staten Island.</p> <p>12 I urge you to listen at this time. Please</p> <p>13 consider the many here in Staten Island that are</p> <p>14 already suffering and they can't take much more.</p> <p>15 Don't be the reason why in New York Staten Island</p> <p>16 is not going to be the place to live for our</p> <p>17 future. Thank you.</p> <p>18 CITIZEN 10: Good evening. I am a member</p> <p>19 of Local 282. I live right her on Staten Island.</p> <p>20 The construction industry in New York needs jobs.</p> <p>21 This toll increase will give us that, just that.</p> <p>22 We urge you to support this proposal and the</p> <p>23 economic development it's going to create. Thank</p> <p>24 you.</p> <p>25 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you.</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 MR. PANZELLA: I have a lot of stuff to</p> <p>3 say going to be three minutes. I wrote it all</p> <p>4 down. I'm going to bring up the real issue.</p> <p>5 Tolls don't pay for your projects. They issue</p> <p>6 bonds on wall streets. That's what pays for your</p> <p>7 projects. You know what the toll goes to pay,</p> <p>8 interest, interest, Goldman Sachs. Do you know</p> <p>9 that Goldman Sachs is getting a bail out of this.</p> <p>10 The pay or approved a deal to give Goldman Sachs</p> <p>11 \$320 million out of this money because they</p> <p>12 didn't finish the World Trade Center.</p> <p>13 So World Trade Center can't build their</p> <p>14 building until the World Trade Center is finished</p> <p>15 that's a bail out. Do you guys have the courage</p> <p>16 to stand up to this Wall Street capitalist</p> <p>17 garbage and audit? I want to know everyone of</p> <p>18 these relationship they have with at World Trade</p> <p>19 Center and Goldman Sachs. All of the Wall Street</p> <p>20 sign, they are just sucking your money. It is</p> <p>21 more bail out to the Wall Street government.</p> <p>22 These guys don't get paid, some of them. This</p> <p>23 guy does.</p> <p>24 But a lot of board -- this is your</p> <p>25 position. These are billionaires, Wall Street</p>                             |

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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 billionaires who take these positions because</p> <p>3 they get contracts out of it and bonds and</p> <p>4 commissions from selling those bonds. This is a</p> <p>5 bail out all over again. Where is the tea party?</p> <p>6 I don't see the tea party because this is the</p> <p>7 same issue the tea party is up about it's Wall</p> <p>8 Street asking for another bail out.</p> <p>9 The other thing I want to say is foreign</p> <p>10 trade zones. I Googled about foreign trade</p> <p>11 zones. A foreign trade zone is the Port</p> <p>12 Authority sites for China, you know it is on US</p> <p>13 soil, it is china. So China can come in bring</p> <p>14 the cargo in, no inspection. No taxes no tariffs</p> <p>15 when they are in foreign trade zone. It is like</p> <p>16 they are in their own country.</p> <p>17 They are going to tax us higher tolls</p> <p>18 because they want the to promise you a job. You</p> <p>19 guys aren't getting any jobs out of this. You</p> <p>20 heard it before. Ten, fifteen years they said</p> <p>21 they were going to rebuild the bridge, it never</p> <p>22 happened. It's a lie. They using you guys as</p> <p>23 building block to counteract us keep us fighting</p> <p>24 against each other and it is all to distract.</p> <p>25 But the wall street bulldogs, it is not</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 to do this every single day until we get a fair</p> <p>3 share. We're not going to balance the budget of</p> <p>4 your financial incompetency on Staten Island.</p> <p>5 MR. BUTCHER: Dennis Johnson followed by</p> <p>6 Joe Valentin.</p> <p>7 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, ladies and</p> <p>8 gentlemen. I'm going to make this real quick.</p> <p>9 My name is Dennis Johnson. I represent 394. I</p> <p>10 see a lot of brothers that's here from the union</p> <p>11 today. That's a good thing. One of the things</p> <p>12 the tolls aren't going make anything better. It</p> <p>13 is not about New Jersey and New York. It is</p> <p>14 working and being able to afford these tolls.</p> <p>15 Let alone people can't even afford gas right now.</p> <p>16 If you can't get gas in your car, how the hell</p> <p>17 are you going to get through a toll. It doesn't</p> <p>18 make sense, but to me, it is just about, you</p> <p>19 know, nobody's explaining where the money is</p> <p>20 going from Port Authority.</p> <p>21 They are just -- where is that money?</p> <p>22 Who is in charge of the money? Who is</p> <p>23 discounting, nobody? There needs to be an audit,</p> <p>24 should be an audit. People need to know what is</p> <p>25 going on with the Port Authority. We should not</p> |
| Page 71   | Page 73  |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 capitalism. I am a capitalist. This is monopoly</p> <p>3 capitalist. It is boloney and you people, you're</p> <p>4 right, this is a show. He is right. This is a</p> <p>5 show. He is here to let us get it out of our</p> <p>6 system. So oh time's up. We need to go in and</p> <p>7 find out where the corruption is.</p> <p>8 MR. BUTCHER: Paul Didonato.</p> <p>9 MR. DIDONATO: I've been here almost a</p> <p>10 lifelong time fifteen years. I pay New York</p> <p>11 taxes. I pay New Jersey taxes and I pay E-ZPass</p> <p>12 taxes. Now they want to raise it on us and</p> <p>13 promise new jobs. Jobs aren't pulled out of a</p> <p>14 bags. You can't just pull out thirty thousand</p> <p>15 jobs 160,000 thousand jobs whatever they say.</p> <p>16 Petition the borough president to actually make a</p> <p>17 new motto for Staten Island.</p> <p>18 Go back to Easter Sunday to the tolls on</p> <p>19 Verrazano Bridge. The snowstorm now they want to</p> <p>20 raise our tolls again. I'm going to tell you</p> <p>21 something, tomorrow morning Staten Islanders at</p> <p>22 every bridge every crossing go home take the</p> <p>23 helicopter and a limousine. Tell them we're</p> <p>24 going to be paying nickles and dimes. We're</p> <p>25 going to lock down the island. And we're going</p>                   | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 raise those tolls because people can't afford it.</p> <p>3 Everybody spoke tonight make sense and one of the</p> <p>4 things that make sense to me is that as a people</p> <p>5 we need to get together. We need work.</p> <p>6 This is a recession. We don't have that</p> <p>7 kind of money in this economy right now. So we</p> <p>8 need to do that now, get more jobs and get all</p> <p>9 these people back to work, if we can. I have</p> <p>10 been out of work for a long period of time and</p> <p>11 cannot afford to pay a toll if I don't have a</p> <p>12 job.</p> <p>13 MR. BUTCHER: Joe Valentin.</p> <p>14 MR. VALENTIN: How are all of you? You</p> <p>15 look like pumpkins. This morning I came in to</p> <p>16 get looked over. These guys when I looked down I</p> <p>17 said -- we're taken by the orange shirts. They</p> <p>18 are all leaving now. I guess you guys are</p> <p>19 leaving now, right. You know what I don't know</p> <p>20 whatever your union gave you you're all</p> <p>21 brainwashed. You're brainwashed. There are</p> <p>22 thousands of people in Staten Island that don't</p> <p>23 have jobs. You are not the only ones that don't</p> <p>24 have jobs. So go ahead go back wherever you came</p> <p>25 from.</p>  |

| Page 74   | Page 76   |
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| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 The bottom line is something is going on</p> <p>3 in here everybody has to pay tax. Your</p> <p>4 incompetence of how you are handling your</p> <p>5 finances is to get all these guys out of here.</p> <p>6 This is great next time I will try to get up</p> <p>7 first so then they won't take our seats. This is</p> <p>8 what they did. Why did they take thirty to fifty</p> <p>9 seats and they all talk the same garbage. They</p> <p>10 want it, but you know what, they don't want to</p> <p>11 pay for it either. They don't.</p> <p>12 I cleared the whole damn room. There are</p> <p>13 no more orange shirts in here good riddins.</p> <p>14 Today Port Authority has to take care of their</p> <p>15 own business and do it properly. The bottom line</p> <p>16 is we have to take care of the people of Staten</p> <p>17 Island. If you don't care for the people of</p> <p>18 Staten Island, you have problems we. Have</p> <p>19 officials that are going to take care of that and</p> <p>20 then you not going to have a job and there is</p> <p>21 going to be no Port Authority. That right here,</p> <p>22 I will be. Thanks.</p> <p>23 MR. BUTCHER: Thanks</p> <p>24 CITIZEN 11: A bunch of those gentleman I</p> <p>25 spoke to outside I wish you have the decency to</p>  | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Staten Island and it's a disgrace that they take</p> <p>3 advantage of us time and time again. We will not</p> <p>4 bow down to this. We have to come together</p> <p>5 Staten Islanders and say no. Thank you.</p> <p>6 MR. BUTCHER: Gail Leibowitz followed by</p> <p>7 Nina Steffani.</p> <p>8 MS. LEIBOWITZ: Good evening Staten Island</p> <p>9 I am a 181 Local member. I have lived and raised</p> <p>10 on Staten Island. This is outrageous,</p> <p>11 disgusting. I hate it. We shouldn't do this.</p> <p>12 Go somewhere else, find it somewhere else, maybe</p> <p>13 in your pockets, not in ours because we can't</p> <p>14 afford it. I was a transportation engineer. I</p> <p>15 did a lot of work for safety, subcontractor and I</p> <p>16 took a look at the numbers because this amazes</p> <p>17 me.</p> <p>18 In 2009 traffic counts the amount that the</p> <p>19 Port Authority would gain out of maximum from a</p> <p>20 passenger cars going over the three Staten Island</p> <p>21 Port Authority bridges would be one hundred</p> <p>22 million dollars. But if you look now, what you</p> <p>23 would get from all of the trucks, is \$3.6</p> <p>24 billion. So all of us here we're saying we don't</p> <p>25 have the money to do this. People can go back</p>  |
| Page 75   | Page 77   |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 come back and listen to me I am an original</p> <p>3 Staten Island I am not the Jersey Shore, Snookies</p> <p>4 or the mob wives. I'm a union worker, a Staten</p> <p>5 Island school teacher for 33 years. I support</p> <p>6 union workers. I support jobs. I am not feeling</p> <p>7 sorry for these -- yes, I am feeling sorry for</p> <p>8 people that don't have jobs but don't listen to</p> <p>9 this garbage from whoever these people think they</p> <p>10 are, the Port Authority, BS, pay my E-ZPass bill.</p> <p>11 I have my mother-in-law I see three times</p> <p>12 a week. I have to go take care of her, 83 years</p> <p>13 old. My parents in New Jersey. I take care of</p> <p>14 them and I'm working. I have two boys in</p> <p>15 college. My husband's retired from the police</p> <p>16 department, a detective now, you tell me and I</p> <p>17 can afford to pay this toll increase. Thank God</p> <p>18 I have a job. I walk picket lines with the</p> <p>19 teachers support unions, support jobs. But the</p> <p>20 Port Authority, I will tell you, nobody should</p> <p>21 listen or believe that they are saying.</p> <p>22 If you want a job, you stand in line, you</p> <p>23 fill out an application, you get a job. They are</p> <p>24 promising garbage. And you know what, before I</p> <p>25 -- let me not even go there. Just support</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 and forth every day. They don't have the go</p> <p>3 off-peak or the option to not go they need to</p> <p>4 there are no jobs here so for us to have to pay.</p> <p>5 Basically, it is going to be doubled by 2014, but</p> <p>6 right now \$100 million out of \$3.6 billion. It</p> <p>7 don't make sense to take away what -- people's</p> <p>8 livelihoods quality of life.</p> <p>9 Every time each one of us goes over that</p> <p>10 bridge -- we feel, I don't care if I'm making a</p> <p>11 hundred thousand a year, I still feel it and</p> <p>12 really wish that the Port Authority could do a --</p> <p>13 make it so that we do not pay increases. We are</p> <p>14 Staten Island residents and use E-ZPass. Give us</p> <p>15 a break. Find a way to propose this. Staten</p> <p>16 Island residents know, we cannot get off and get</p> <p>17 back on without paying that toll, we just can't</p> <p>18 do it. People have to work in Jersey. So a</p> <p>19 hundred million. That's it. Thank you.</p> <p>20 MR. BUTCHER: Diane Drozeck.</p> <p>21 MS. DROZECK: They said I can't ask you a</p> <p>22 question. Why? Why? Can you at least answer</p> <p>23 two questions why isn't the board here so someone</p> <p>24 can answer my question. I thought this was where</p> <p>25 I can come and ask questions. My husband hates</p> |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 me he says I'm always asking questions. I am a</p> <p>3 citizen answer the question. Why can't you go</p> <p>4 somewhere else and get the money? Where was the</p> <p>5 money all the time when you were making that</p> <p>6 excess amount? Where is that and why weren't</p> <p>7 they fixing the bridges all along during all that</p> <p>8 time.</p> <p>9 Why is it suddenly they have to be fixed</p> <p>10 now? Shouldn't they have been maintained the</p> <p>11 whole time. You are looking at me confused.</p> <p>12 This is why my husband hates me, but that's okay.</p> <p>13 Are we going to have a meeting where the people</p> <p>14 actually vote that people can come up and talk</p> <p>15 and ask them questions</p> <p>16 MR. BUTCHER: This section is only for</p> <p>17 comments, your comments not for questions</p> <p>18 MS. DROZECK: Okay. Well, my comment is</p> <p>19 it's bullshit. But you know, it's true. It</p> <p>20 really is. It really is. Staten Islander's</p> <p>21 shouldn't have to pay anything at all. The</p> <p>22 representatives will say, they really shouldn't.</p> <p>23 I'm going to ask you one more question. I do</p> <p>24 want you to answer it. What have you learned</p> <p>25 from the people that said their comments tonight?</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Jimmy McMillan said when he was talking about the</p> <p>3 high rents when he said the rents are too damn</p> <p>4 high. I started to say New York City is too damn</p> <p>5 high. And you've already heard from hundreds of</p> <p>6 people about how hard it is out here. And I'm</p> <p>7 sure you yourself know because you probably have</p> <p>8 family and friends that are struggling right</p> <p>9 along with us.</p> <p>10 I am not assuming you make big bucks. I</p> <p>11 said to our local politician and Governor Cuomo</p> <p>12 we cannot afford anymore increases on anything.</p> <p>13 We are losing Staten Islanders left, right and</p> <p>14 center. Our young people are leaving this island</p> <p>15 for other places where there is not as hard to</p> <p>16 live where the cost of living isn't as high and</p> <p>17 where you don't have to pay for every single</p> <p>18 thing that you do including breathe.</p> <p>19 You have got to hear us. And you have got</p> <p>20 to stop. If you have been doing this for eighty</p> <p>21 years with these bridges and it is just like this</p> <p>22 lady said for those eighty years you haven't</p> <p>23 maintained those bridges. You haven't repaired</p> <p>24 those bridges what has the Port Authority been</p> <p>25 doing with our money? So my next letter to</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 I want your comments about everyone's comments,</p> <p>3 can you do that?</p> <p>4 MR. BUTCHER: This is just for your</p> <p>5 comments</p> <p>6 MS. DROZECK: Okay. What have you learned</p> <p>7 tonight from everyone here? Why don't they have</p> <p>8 Staten Islanders take a vote? A vote, you know</p> <p>9 with the mayor the people have votes and</p> <p>10 everything. You know what, as Americans we do</p> <p>11 not have rights in this country. We do not if we</p> <p>12 have rights we would be voting. We should have a</p> <p>13 say and don't increase us, do everyone else, but</p> <p>14 not me. We don't have the money. I wanted to</p> <p>15 bring tea bags and throw them at you, but I</p> <p>16 behaved myself. You know, enough taxes, enough</p> <p>17 everything. It is ridiculous now. I'll let you</p> <p>18 go.</p> <p>19 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you. Beryl Thurman.</p> <p>20 MS. THURMAN: I really am surprised</p> <p>21 that the board couldn't make it to look at us and</p> <p>22 see that we are real people and have lives. When</p> <p>23 I heard about this increase for the tolls, it was</p> <p>24 just like, are you kidding me? Are you serious?</p> <p>25 And the first thing that came to mind is what</p>  | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Governor Cuomo and New York State attorney</p> <p>3 general's office and the comptrollers office</p> <p>4 would be the Port Authority needs to be audited.</p> <p>5 I want to know where my money is going</p> <p>6 because it is not making it back here where I</p> <p>7 live, which is Staten Island. Thank you.</p> <p>8 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you. Grurange Lee.</p> <p>9 Gregory Markow.</p> <p>10 MR. MARKOW: I am a lifelong New York City</p> <p>11 resident and I live in Staten Island. I commute</p> <p>12 from Staten Island to New Jersey. Staten Island</p> <p>13 to Manhattan. Staten Island to Connecticut. I</p> <p>14 am a consumer of your services I pay yearly for</p> <p>15 your services. The toll increase that you are</p> <p>16 proposing is completely unacceptable. You can't</p> <p>17 do that for people who work for a living on a</p> <p>18 daily basis and commute across these bridges.</p> <p>19 You have no concept of what you are doing</p> <p>20 to working families. There are people who are</p> <p>21 barely, barely making ends meet, gas prices have</p> <p>22 gone on up significantly. The increases on these</p> <p>23 people they will not be able to afford to travel</p> <p>24 to Jersey or Connecticut. They wouldn't be able</p> <p>25 to afford to work let alone employment. You have</p>              |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 to rethink this toll increase. You're driving</p> <p>3 about \$160 million in revenue. That could</p> <p>4 service, approximately, \$10 billion in debt</p> <p>5 easily on a twenty or thirty year debt.</p> <p>6 You need to think about dedicating that</p> <p>7 revenue to Staten Island probably or turning</p> <p>8 those advocates over to Staten Island. Maybe</p> <p>9 they should give the bridges the assets that the</p> <p>10 public loans, give them back to Staten Island we</p> <p>11 will issue the debt, create a Staten Island</p> <p>12 authority and we will service the bridges because</p> <p>13 I believe that too much of our revenue generated</p> <p>14 our crossing the bridges is being used on other</p> <p>15 -- that's fare from a regional authority</p> <p>16 prospective and good for the region.</p> <p>17 What you are doing now is placing an undue</p> <p>18 burden on the Staten Island residents from people</p> <p>19 in Staten Island. This is unacceptable we're</p> <p>20 going to do everything we can to stop this</p> <p>21 increase. We're going to drive Governor Cuomo</p> <p>22 and Governor Christie letters and ask for a veto</p> <p>23 on the increases. We believe Governor Christie</p> <p>24 will veto your increase. We believe Governor</p> <p>25 Cuomo will veto the increase. These governors</p>   | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 1830's and we're going to soon no longer be</p> <p>3 Staten Island residents because we can't afford</p> <p>4 what you are doing to us. We travel up and down</p> <p>5 the east coast. Why don't you go to Georgia,</p> <p>6 North Carolina Florida and see how they maintain</p> <p>7 their roads and bridges because they don't have</p> <p>8 tolls. Where do they get the money? Go down</p> <p>9 I-95. Georgia is redoing I-95 making for two</p> <p>10 lanes to three repaving and there is not one toll</p> <p>11 on it.</p> <p>12 Florida doesn't have tolls except the</p> <p>13 Florida state roads, but you know what, you can</p> <p>14 travel the length of the that turnpike for nine</p> <p>15 and a half hours and your maximum total is \$14</p> <p>16 under what two minutes over the bridge, but you</p> <p>17 know what it is not two minutes, it is ten hours</p> <p>18 sometimes. And it is despicable that this is</p> <p>19 what the Port Authority gives us.</p> <p>20 MR. BUTCHER: David Frick.</p> <p>21 MR. FRICK: My name is David Frick. I am</p> <p>22 on the board of directors for the Midline</p> <p>23 Society. We are a neighborhood organization of</p> <p>24 about three hundred member in North Shore, Staten</p> <p>25 Island. One of the main goals of our society is</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 understand what people are going through.</p> <p>3 Now, you are saying you need the capital,</p> <p>4 you need the revenue to service debt and service</p> <p>5 capital projects. And I believe you have those</p> <p>6 expenses, we absolutely have those expenses, but</p> <p>7 transit, it's time to really think out of the box</p> <p>8 -- maybe you should to generate revenues. Why do</p> <p>9 you have toll collectors they are a cost. Why</p> <p>10 are we using \$10 million to build a bridge?</p> <p>11 Where is that expense coming from?</p> <p>12 You need to start thinking out of the box.</p> <p>13 If that means reducing the work force, that's it.</p> <p>14 You can cannot keep on increasing tolls on a</p> <p>15 Staten Island bridges give us the bridges back.</p> <p>16 And we will service the bridges</p> <p>17 MS. MERCADO: Basically everybody said</p> <p>18 what I wanted to say. I have to tell -- Port</p> <p>19 Authority has audacity to not have anyone here to</p> <p>20 answer questions and have the gall to raise the</p> <p>21 toll by 50 percent. Why aren't green energy cars</p> <p>22 getting toll increases? Are they better citizen,</p> <p>23 elites? You should be ashamed to sit up there</p> <p>24 and say you represent this organization.</p> <p>25 My husband's family came to Staten Island in the</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 to advocate for anything that helps our</p> <p>3 communities to improve. That creates jobs,</p> <p>4 revitalization. Therefore speaking for the board</p> <p>5 of directors and for our organization, we are</p> <p>6 absolutely unanimously opposed this toll</p> <p>7 increase.</p> <p>8 It is too bad that the orange shirts had</p> <p>9 to catch their buses back to New Jersey because I</p> <p>10 wanted to ask them and you Ernesto how you were</p> <p>11 to feel if I find out where you live set a toll</p> <p>12 booth and set up \$12 to drive to your house, to</p> <p>13 get home. I mean, it is absolutely ludicrous. I</p> <p>14 think, you know, what do you want us to do, swim,</p> <p>15 you know, I mean waters are lovely, especially</p> <p>16 with the leakages of sewage and that kind of</p> <p>17 things.</p> <p>18 Sometimes you perhaps remember there a</p> <p>19 human factor here involved. There is a guy in my</p> <p>20 church, he is from Sri Lanka immigrated here. He</p> <p>21 finds a job is Staten Island. Three kids now he</p> <p>22 is working over in Jersey by the outerbridge.</p> <p>23 \$2,000 a month. I don't know how in the month</p> <p>24 the guy gets back and forth. He struggles. I</p> <p>25 know sometimes he is practically at tears</p>            |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1           <b>PROCEEDINGS</b></p> <p>2   figuring out he can pay for his children or rent</p> <p>3   and that's toll. I think that's really</p> <p>4   despicable.</p> <p>5       You are kidding people. At the very</p> <p>6   least, possibly, we can support some kind of toll</p> <p>7   if there is an actual real Staten Island discount</p> <p>8   like the MTA. Every time we go over the bridge</p> <p>9   we pay maybe half price to get across and a real</p> <p>10   carpool, but you just can't keep trying to</p> <p>11   balance all of this on the backs of Staten</p> <p>12   Islanders. We all know because the bridges, my</p> <p>13   gosh, you have taken out the tolls to replace our</p> <p>14   bridges several times over which is what you</p> <p>15   should have done already. That's what the tolls</p> <p>16   are for. To maintain the bridges, replace them,</p> <p>17   not to pay for someone to be able to, I don't</p> <p>18   know, travel from Jersey straight to Manhattan.</p> <p>19   All right. Thanks.</p> <p>20       MR. BUTCHER: Margaret Palterella.</p> <p>21       MS. PALTERELLA: Unconscionable what was</p> <p>22   my first thought I looked up the word in the</p> <p>23   dictionary. Here is what I found. Not guided,</p> <p>24   controlled by conscience. Scrupulous. The</p> <p>25   unprecedented reason. The taxpayers of this area</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1           <b>PROCEEDINGS</b></p> <p>2   jobs and sending our local economies into a</p> <p>3   tailspin. Everyone knows we need to trim the</p> <p>4   tree, you cut the branches. First you need trim</p> <p>5   the edges unless you want to risk killing the</p> <p>6   whole tree</p> <p>7       We have heard a great deal from our</p> <p>8   officials. That said we must tighten our belts</p> <p>9   and eat our peas. I have two words in response</p> <p>10   to that you first. You really ought to be</p> <p>11   ashamed. Then again how can you feel shame when</p> <p>12   you have no conscience to begin with. Thank you.</p> <p>13       MR. BUTCHER: Chris Copper followed by</p> <p>14   Howard Cohen</p> <p>15       MR. COPPER: I'm Chris Copper. The tolls</p> <p>16   go up more and more, jobs leave here and end up</p> <p>17   in New Jersey. The problem is we can't afford</p> <p>18   properties out there and most of the jobs are</p> <p>19   taken away by New Jersey residents. I am a</p> <p>20   business person. \$17 toll plus the cost of gas</p> <p>21   The borough president of Staten Island pointed</p> <p>22   out there was a net profit of at least \$145</p> <p>23   million from the Staten Island residents. The</p> <p>24   42nd Street lost \$82 million. So can you tell</p> <p>25   the fact by lowering it a million dollar salaries</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1           <b>PROCEEDINGS</b></p> <p>2   already overheard. Many of us have good jobs</p> <p>3   solid education found ourselves struggling to</p> <p>4   make ends meet you want more from us. The</p> <p>5   average taxpayer experiences some kind of</p> <p>6   difficulty. Usually cut cost, that doesn't work.</p> <p>7   We find ways to economize on the basis. Maybe</p> <p>8   that's what causes alimony and not handed to us</p> <p>9   from someplace else.</p> <p>10       You on the other hand skip all that and</p> <p>11   take the easy way out by charging us more. You</p> <p>12   say you can have a bottle on which to draw this</p> <p>13   is our money, not yours. Is it possible that</p> <p>14   this increase necessary due to your waste,</p> <p>15   mismanagement and corruption. Perhaps that</p> <p>16   should be investigated. These increases will put</p> <p>17   the public hit the had been in more ways that</p> <p>18   one. Increase cost for traveling to and from</p> <p>19   school, families God forbid leisure at the same</p> <p>20   time. To shift upon us pay the increase and</p> <p>21   passing the cost onto the consumer hitting us</p> <p>22   again.</p> <p>23       Perhaps the increases curtail travels in</p> <p>24   responses thereby having negative impact on both</p> <p>25   sides of the crossings causing further loss of</p>   | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1           <b>PROCEEDINGS</b></p> <p>2   by Port Authority executives and increase the</p> <p>3   revenues at those getting money. Put the</p> <p>4   increase from revenues from here because we are</p> <p>5   left hand getting money. Fix our bridges with</p> <p>6   what we got already and how about lowering our</p> <p>7   cost.</p> <p>8       I also want to say that Staten Islanders</p> <p>9   should get a resident discount. I have never</p> <p>10   gotten to use the discount because it is a twenty</p> <p>11   trip discount per month, so I haven't even been</p> <p>12   able to do that. It's ridiculous. Give me a</p> <p>13   discount every time they travel over. The</p> <p>14   bridges were mentioned they need to be repaired</p> <p>15   all across the country, but none of them charge</p> <p>16   \$17.</p> <p>17       I think quite frankly bridges over</p> <p>18   Pennsylvania they charge about \$3, \$4 the most</p> <p>19   last time I lived over there it was about \$3 for</p> <p>20   sure. It is not more than \$4. If the other</p> <p>21   states can do it without charging so much in</p> <p>22   tolls we should be able to do so too. Other</p> <p>23   point I want to make if I can drive to other</p> <p>24   boroughs no cost, we can. People can walk or</p> <p>25   bike over bridges to Manhattan we cannot. I am</p>               |

| Page 90   | Page 92   |
|---|---|
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 also a biker. There is no pedestrian walkway on</p> <p>3 the Goethal's Bridges.</p> <p>4 Maybe the PA shouldn't have wasted so much</p> <p>5 money printing all of those orange shirts and the</p> <p>6 PA talks about a couple of thousands jobs. Close</p> <p>7 to 500,000 people here. Most of those people</p> <p>8 have no jobs here. That's what I want to say.</p> <p>9</p> <p>10 MR. BUTCHER: Thomas Agandi and Howard</p> <p>11 Cohen</p> <p>12 MR. COHEN: I'm going to say to my friends</p> <p>13 in the orange shirt, my unions. It is not the</p> <p>14 job of Staten Islanders to be able to be the</p> <p>15 stimulus package for your needs and provide those</p> <p>16 jobs. That's not the job of Port Authority. The</p> <p>17 job is to maintain and supply transportation</p> <p>18 between the states that's what you are supposed</p> <p>19 to do. You are not the stimulus package for the</p> <p>20 unions. The other thing it is an economics</p> <p>21 thing. I don't know if the Port Authority -- you</p> <p>22 keep on jacking up the tolls unless people are</p> <p>23 going to take the bridges, you are not going to</p> <p>24 get more revenue. A bunch of us coming from</p> <p>25 Staten Island to Brooklyn to work in Bayonne.</p>   | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 they don't have to raise tolls on the bridge.</p> <p>3 The other things we need to do is issue</p> <p>4 municipal bonds by issuing bonds against the</p> <p>5 bridge. There wouldn't be any increase in the</p> <p>6 tolls. There would be private capital and we</p> <p>7 will get money over the years through interest</p> <p>8 payments. They are better than the banks. Of</p> <p>9 course it is important to understand to not be</p> <p>10 victim to the loss of E-ZPasses residents at the</p> <p>11 Verrazano.</p> <p>12 Currently this is going through a lawsuit.</p> <p>13 The Staten Island community is being faced with</p> <p>14 economic uncertainty and the cost of living</p> <p>15 concerns cannot afford additional financial</p> <p>16 burdens due to the geography in which they live;</p> <p>17 in other words, 75 percent of vehicles costs are</p> <p>18 owned by the Port Authority. That's a lie. We</p> <p>19 have no way of getting back onto this island</p> <p>20 without paying some kind of charge and getting</p> <p>21 back to our homes provide subsidies to which the</p> <p>22 Port Authority workers when they cross these</p> <p>23 bridges.</p> <p>24 So in choosing -- I have to say in order</p> <p>25 for us as residents and I have been for 23 years</p>   |
| Page 91   | Page 93   |
| <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 The carpool -- your carpool, you use half of</p> <p>3 their tolls if not more. That is what the low,</p> <p>4 your going to jack it up, you are going to lose.</p> <p>5 I don't know if anyone does basic arithmetic.</p> <p>6 And the Port Authority, if anyone in the economy</p> <p>7 did your job as incompetently as Port Authority,</p> <p>8 we be would fired. You guys have failed</p> <p>9 miserably. The commission has failed.</p> <p>10 MR. BUTCHER: Christopher Wallace, David</p> <p>11 Fineman</p> <p>12 MR. WALLACE: I represent the 10301</p> <p>13 through 10314. I would just like to say that the</p> <p>14 bridges that -- the out other bridge, Goethal</p> <p>15 Bayonne are lifelines for the state commerce, but</p> <p>16 you impose tolls that only hurt the Staten Island</p> <p>17 community. You heard from someone else earlier</p> <p>18 together on behalf of the Port Authority. The</p> <p>19 unemployment rate is not at 9.1 percent, it is at</p> <p>20 16.5. Well, here is a couple of ideas about how</p> <p>21 to help out with these people are unemployed.</p> <p>22 Well, first off we can go back into creating a</p> <p>23 public works project. We can give these people</p> <p>24 out of work an opportunity to be able to earn</p> <p>25 their benefit make some money, do something so</p> | <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 -- in order for us to be residents of Staten</p> <p>3 Island to be able to pull through and be able to</p> <p>4 save the people of the Port Authority the answer</p> <p>5 is no, we won't able to get most of these people.</p> <p>6 Unfortunately, the Port Authority didn't send</p> <p>7 somebody down to be able to interact. This is</p> <p>8 being able to more or less who knows. Thank you</p> <p>9 MR. BUTCHER: Phillip Nachim, David</p> <p>10 Hernandez, Tom Lagito. Lee Vadenburnat</p> <p>11 MR. VADENBURNAT: My name is Lee</p> <p>12 Vadenburnat. I live on the island fourteen years</p> <p>13 I'm outraged that this meeting was called to</p> <p>14 convene at 6 p.m. I am at Brooklyn, Metrotech</p> <p>15 Center. There is no direct route there. That's</p> <p>16 not your job to put that in place. You do</p> <p>17 provide a service, that is to go over that</p> <p>18 bridge. Sometimes to go eleven miles it takes me</p> <p>19 two hours each way, four hours a day. Why?</p> <p>20 Eleven miles, it's absurd. I could travel in</p> <p>21 that time to Pennsylvania and still have time to</p> <p>22 take a break, fill up with gas and have lunch.</p> <p>23 Anyway, I can see why this meeting might be</p> <p>24 meaningless to most. I am so outraged I had to</p> <p>25 come here and do my civic responsibility and at</p> |



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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 least have my voice be heard. That twenty hours</p> <p>3 extra a week I am computing and paying \$145 on my</p> <p>4 E-ZPasses that I feel like I'm being robbed,</p> <p>5 robbed of not only my finances, my time that I</p> <p>6 could have spent with my child, I am commuting.</p> <p>7 Eleven miles, Downtown Brooklyn, two</p> <p>8 hours, what kind of service is that? You know,</p> <p>9 again, I digress. The comments made by Danny</p> <p>10 Panzella earlier only made me think of MTA and</p> <p>11 they cooked up two set of books. I think what a</p> <p>12 waste of money. Wasn't that bridge supposed to</p> <p>13 be paid for? It was built in 1960 and it was</p> <p>14 supposed to be ten years then that's it. I have</p> <p>15 a proposal, how about this. People who live on</p> <p>16 Staten Island are no longer held hostage. They</p> <p>17 get to go to work and make a living and come back</p> <p>18 for free.</p> <p>19 And those people coming from somewhere</p> <p>20 else or going through our great island, let them</p> <p>21 pay, but I go over that bridge sometimes three</p> <p>22 times in a day and I'm outraged I'm paying \$180</p> <p>23 times fourteen years. And people who work for</p> <p>24 the Port Authority get to ride for free. Enough.</p> <p>25 All I can see is foreclosure. Con Ed, Keyspan</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 on our backs. You just need to balance your</p> <p>3 books period.</p> <p>4 MR. BUTCHER: Thank you. Will you please</p> <p>5 state your name</p> <p>6 MR. SARIA: Paul Saria. Good evening. By</p> <p>7 the way, I was here earlier today at the 8</p> <p>8 o'clock session. And maybe you didn't like what</p> <p>9 I said because apparently you didn't call my</p> <p>10 name. Anyway, good evening and as I said my name</p> <p>11 is Paul Saria. I want to thank Borough President</p> <p>12 Morinaro for giving us an opportunity to express</p> <p>13 our concerns here tonight. We are all aware of</p> <p>14 Port Authority budget's deficits -- hold on let</p> <p>15 me get my glasses. You know, Joe Valentin here,</p> <p>16 the last time I seen something like this was the</p> <p>17 last time I had a hearing together -- I never</p> <p>18 seen so many people leave like that. That was</p> <p>19 great what he did. Anyway, we are all here and</p> <p>20 we are all aware of the Port Authority's deficits</p> <p>21 to raise revenues by increasing tolls or cut</p> <p>22 spending. I suggest we start right at the top.</p> <p>23 We can save some money by abolishing the</p> <p>24 board of governor's for the Port Authority and</p> <p>25 its executive staff. You guys are not needed,</p>   |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Port Authority. Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. BUTCHER: Is there anyone else who</p> <p>4 would like to make a statement regarding the</p> <p>5 proposal here before us, please state your name</p> <p>6 MS. CALDWELL: My name is Jennifer</p> <p>7 Caldwell. Unfortunately I had to come late I</p> <p>8 work in Downtown Brooklyn. And there is no way I</p> <p>9 am getting here at 6 o'clock as I am getting out</p> <p>10 at 5 o'clock. It's ridiculous. Even with the R</p> <p>11 train, you know, sick passenger that ends up</p> <p>12 taking -- this is absolutely insane. Disgusting</p> <p>13 for the organization we work for. It is BS on us</p> <p>14 that's exactly what it is. Worse because it</p> <p>15 actually screws with our lives. It screws with</p> <p>16 our wallets, it screws with our lives. It is</p> <p>17 insane. I use to live up in Binghamton. I was</p> <p>18 born here, raised here, just bought a house here</p> <p>19 how am I going to make mortgage payments when I</p> <p>20 have to go out to Jersey to visit friends and</p> <p>21 family, I have to pay all this money. What if my</p> <p>22 job ends up moving to Jersey, I will not be able</p> <p>23 to afford to work.</p> <p>24 And we all know costs are rising</p> <p>25 everywhere, but you will not balance your books</p>                                    | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 right. You represent all that is wrong and</p> <p>3 corrupt in Port Authority. Now, I'm not against</p> <p>4 these hard working guys here for the union. In</p> <p>5 fact, I'm also a union member myself. My issue</p> <p>6 is at the top of the Port Authority. You see the</p> <p>7 Port Authority budget and revenue, which is</p> <p>8 effectively a tax on citizen of New York State</p> <p>9 and New Jersey should be legislative decided by</p> <p>10 New York the government and assembly and not by a</p> <p>11 body of self-serving bureaucrats who rubber</p> <p>12 stamps on billion dollars tax increases.</p> <p>13 I don't know if you have my name up there,</p> <p>14 but I hope, I hope that was an accident that it</p> <p>15 was lost because you are just proving my point.</p> <p>16 I hope you are -- if you all happen to be fired I</p> <p>17 want you to know that you are eligible for \$405</p> <p>18 unemployment insurance. Unfortunately for those</p> <p>19 of you who may commute to find a job and have a</p> <p>20 problem paying taxes or by that point in time</p> <p>21 tolls that currently exist.</p> <p>22 A number of years ago, I was a New York</p> <p>23 City police officer. I stopped this old man for</p> <p>24 a traffic violation. I don't recall what he said</p> <p>25 to me I warned and admonished him and drove off.</p> |

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| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 Immediately after I let him go, he went through a</p> <p>3 red light right in front of me. I pulled him</p> <p>4 over again and asked him why did you do this. He</p> <p>5 asked me to give him a good stair. You know it</p> <p>6 is funny.</p> <p>7 Board of directors, board of governors and</p> <p>8 executive staff. You all ran through a red light</p> <p>9 that day because of your position and special</p> <p>10 situation. You believe you can act what you</p> <p>11 chose. Yeah, I gave him something that day. I</p> <p>12 only wish I can give all of you a summons called</p> <p>13 a subpoena mandating a full order of your boss.</p> <p>14 This order will shed necessary light on the</p> <p>15 transparency every citizen deserves and is</p> <p>16 encouraged to before any toll is increased by</p> <p>17 even one red cent.</p> <p>18 I would like to start to see if any name</p> <p>19 is on that card because I know you didn't want me</p> <p>20 to come up here tonight. Have a good night.</p> <p>21 MR. BUTCHER: Anybody else wants to</p> <p>22 comment on our proposal? Let the record show no</p> <p>23 one has answered affirmatively to that question.</p> <p>24 The time is now 8:40. And this session is now</p> <p>25 concluded. Thank you so very much for coming.</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 CERTIFICATE</p> <p>3</p> <p>4 I, LA TONIA C. LEWIS, RPR, a Notary Public</p> <p>5 for and within the State of New York, do hereby</p> <p>6 certify:</p> <p>7 That the witness whose examination is</p> <p>8 hereinbefore set forth was duly sworn and that</p> <p>9 such examination is a true record of the</p> <p>10 testimony given by that witness.</p> <p>11 I further certify that I am not related to</p> <p>12 any of the parties to this action by blood or by</p> <p>13 marriage and that I am in no way interested in</p> <p>14 the outcome of this matter.</p> <p>15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my</p> <p>16 hand this 16th day of August 2011.</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20 <u>LA TONIA C. LEWIS, RPR</u></p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 (Whereupon, at 8:40 p.m., the</p> <p>3 proceeding was concluded.)</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>   |   |

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| <p><b>A</b></p> <p>ability 61:8<br/>able 11:14 24:15 49:25<br/>53:9 72:14 81:23,24<br/>86:17 89:12,22<br/>90:14 91:24 93:3,3,5<br/>93:7,8 95:22<br/>abolishing 96:23<br/>absence 54:14<br/>absolutely 32:5 65:17<br/>83:6 85:6,13 95:12<br/>absurd 93:20<br/>accept 25:19 54:12<br/>accepted 7:4<br/>access 8:10 52:14<br/>accessible 22:12<br/>accessing 11:12<br/>accident 97:14<br/>accommodated 29:18<br/>accountable 40:19<br/>act 10:20 98:10<br/>action 100:12<br/>actions 7:6<br/>activity 34:11 54:25<br/>actual 20:13 86:7<br/>Ad 60:19<br/>addition 8:24 45:2<br/>53:12 63:25<br/>additional 7:23 8:5,10<br/>8:14 40:3 62:24<br/>66:19 92:15<br/>additionally 64:22<br/>address 7:8 14:2<br/>addressed 13:15<br/>adequate 6:13<br/>adhere 19:15<br/>administration 53:21<br/>admonished 97:25<br/>adult 58:2,5<br/>advantage 53:15 76:3<br/>advertisement 64:12<br/>advertisements 35:13<br/>64:4<br/>advocate 85:2<br/>advocates 82:8<br/>advocating 30:13<br/>affect 15:20 22:23<br/>46:25 66:16<br/>affiliates 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