

Community Board 11Q Joins Queens Community Boards 6, 7, 8 and 13 in opposing Congestion Tax

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CB 11 blasts congestion pricing

By M. Junaid Alam

At the conclusion of the Nov. 5 Community Board 11 meeting, all but two of its members voted for a resolution expressly opposing Mayor Michael Bloomberg's congestion pricing proposal.

The board, which has a consistent record of opposing the plan, took the vote immediately following a discussion of its pros and cons by two borough councilmen who attended the meeting to make their case - Councilman John Liu (D-Flushing), who supports the measure, and Councilman David Weprin (D-Hollis), who opposes it.

The resolution contends that the mayor has failed to explore alternative options, including stepped-up traffic enforcement, mass transit improvements and a rearrangement of the toll structure to prevent New Jersey trucks from filling up Lower Manhattan streets.

"The idea is to send the resolution to the people in the Assembly and Senate" who are preparing a report on the mayor's plan, said Melvyn Meer, a CB 11 member who drafted the document.

He added that he did not believe revenue generated by motorist fees collected under the plan would cover the costs of better public transportation or dealing with increased outer-borough parking woes. "Estimates of how much this is going to get are overblown," he said.