

# .....PRESS RELEASE.....

from the 92<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District



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**For Immediate Release:**  
Sunday, March 30, 2008

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## **Assemblyman Brodsky Releases Statement on the Mayor's Amended Congestion Pricing Legislation**

“Rather than confront the fundamental flaws in their congestion pricing plan, congestion pricing supporters today have struck a series of political bargains with special interests that will only further weaken support for congestion pricing. The deal with Senator D’Amato’s client Greyhound to exempt them from congestion pricing is a perfect example. “Gods Love We Deliver” a group delivering food to severely ill people is not represented by a powerful lobbyist and therefore will pay the fee, even after appearing at the City Council congestion pricing hearing and asking for help. Greyhound, with the money to hire the D’Amato firm receives a last minute exemption. Political deals like this are no substitute for a fair and balanced plan which the Mayor has failed to produce.

A similar attempt to pretend they are dealing with the unfairness resulting from an \$8 fee for working families in the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn while wealthy suburban commuters like from New Jersey are largely exempt from the fee has also failed. The Mayor’s last minute amendment would require the State of New Jersey to pass a law before the Port Authority would be required to pay any money. They are unwilling or unable to require New Jersey commuters to pay the fee and are hiding behind these kinds of unworkable gimmicks instead of dealing with the basic problem.

These machinations are a sure sign of political weakness. They don’t have the votes because their ideas are bad. Rather than come up with better ideas, they come up with gimmicks and deals. It won’t work. The Mayor’s plan remains an unfair regressive tax on middle income people from the outer boroughs. There are better ways to deal with the problem, and they are becoming clearer and clearer. The Mayor’s plan doesn’t have the votes, and this won’t get them.”

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