MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
COUNCIL MEMBER, 8TH DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE
[illegible] EAST 116TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10029
(212) 828-8960
FAX (212) 722-6358

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 1808
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-6960
FAX (212) 442-1564

mviverito@council.nyc.gov

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February 9, 2009

Mr. Howard H. Roberts
President
MTA/New York City Transit
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Mr. Roberts:

As elected officials representing the vast majority of constituents who ride the M10 bus, we write to officially voice our steadfast disagreement with MTA's intent to eliminate this transportation option. This bus provides local service between Harlem and Penn Station, and is to our knowledge, the only bus line that runs along Central Park West.

This elimination would adversely impact many of our constituents; in particular the elderly, the school-age youth who ride the M10 on a daily basis, and the disabled. New Yorkers fought long and hard to gain accessibility on buses for the disabled, as not all trains stations were equip to serve this population. This elimination would seriously setback the progress made in service to this vulnerable population; and directly impacts their quality of life and that of our seniors.

As today's statistics support, the public's need for buses and trains keeps growing. In the past fifteen years bus ridership has increased by 64 percent. The decision to diminish service is both contrary to these facts, and in keeping up with a growing City population.

While recognizing that these are challenging economic times, your decision to completely eliminate this bus route as a means of cutting cost is seen as yet another attempt to close a monetary gap on the backs of the disenfranchised. The majority of the riders this decision disproportionately targets are low and moderate income New Yorkers; and we simply cannot allow this to happen.

Whatever factors MTA weigh in when making this decision, I trust that with the mounting outcry from the many riders impacted and their supporters, that MTA will reconsider this injurious decision. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this serious matter further.

Cordially,

Melissa Mark Viverito Council Member – District 8	Daniel O'Donnell Assembly Member	Bill Perkins Senator	Charles B. Rangel Congressman

cc: Speaker Shelly Silver
Majority Leader Malcolm A. Smith
Helen Rosenthal, Chairperson/Community Board 7
Patricia Jones, Chairperson/Community Board 9
Hon. Franc Perry, Chairperson/Community Board 10