



NEWS FROM THE CAPITOL

FROM ASSEMBLYMAN MARCUS MOLINARO

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For Release: June 2, 2011

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MOLINARO: REPEAL MTA PAYROLL TAX NOW

Assemblyman Marc Molinaro (R,I,C-Red Hook) is supporting recent efforts in the New York State Senate to repeal the MTA payroll tax. Senator Lee Zeldin last week announced his intention to introduce legislation that would phase out the controversial tax over a three-year period. Molinaro has consistently opposed the MTA payroll tax citing the authority's numerous inefficiencies as well as its irresponsible accounting.

“The MTA is an organization that continues to fail and our answer to this should not be to pump more taxpayer money into this venture; instead we should demand accountability,” said Molinaro. “In the real world, a company that cannot keep its costs in line with its revenue fails to exist, but in government we continue to find ways to prop up broken agencies using failed tactics. Granted, the MTA provides important services and to let it implode would be irresponsible, but we cannot go on supporting their careless spending and ill-conceived practices. I support the efforts in the state Senate to relieve New Yorkers of this burden and I encourage the state Assembly to follow suit.”

The payroll tax was originally implemented as a bailout for the struggling authority, but it has become a crutch. The tax allows the MTA to continue to operate inefficiently at the expense of taxpayers. Further, the MTA has fallen under scrutiny for questionable policies and practices. These include exorbitant amounts of overtime for employees, the abundance of highly paid managers and supervisors, and rampant inefficiencies that lead the authority to near insolvency.

“I renew my call for a forensic audit of the MTA,” said Molinaro. “The problems we all know of are only the tip of the iceberg. If state Comptroller DiNapoli were to delve further into the authority, he would find more ways to save money and increase the authority's efficiency. The MTA payroll tax allows the MTA to continue its failed policies and practices at the expense of New Yorkers. I am hopeful that with the hard work of the state Senate and Assembly, along with the support of Governor Cuomo, we can end this tax and help reform the MTA.

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Assemblyman Marc Molinaro, once America's youngest mayor, served twelve years as Mayor of the Village of Tivoli in Dutchess County. He served concurrently as a member of the Dutchess County Legislature from 2000 until 2006, when he was elected to represent the 103rd Assembly District. As a County Legislator, Molinaro served as Chairman of the Budget, Finance and Personnel Committee where he was responsible for stewardship of the county's \$400 million budget adoption. In 2010, Assemblyman Marc Molinaro served on Governor Andrew Cuomo's Transition Team. This year, Marc was appointed by Assembly Republican Leader Brian Kolb as Assistant Minority Leader Pro Tempore and the Republican Conference's representative on Governor Cuomo's Mandate Relief and Redesign Team.