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Jersey City Municipal Council Joins ‘Fight the Hike’ Efforts in Opposition to NJ Transit’s Proposed Fare Hikes and Service Cuts

Municipal Council Unanimously Passes Resolution Condemning NJ Transit’s 9% Fare Increase That Would Impact More than 120,000 Jersey City Residents; Mayor Fulop Issues Letter to Governor Christie and NJ Transit Board Discussing the ‘Fight the Hike’ Efforts

JERSEY CITY- **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announced today that the **Jersey City Municipal Council** has **unanimously passed a resolution supporting the “Fight the Hike” efforts**, which the Mayor, members of the Amalgamated Transit Unit (ATU) and other elected officials launched in May. NJ Transit’s proposed nine percent fare increase represents an added tax on working families in New Jersey, who are already paying the highest transit fares in the nation.

Opposing New Jersey Transit’s proposal to raise fares, the Jersey City Municipal Council also called on the New Jersey State Legislature to ‘devise a fair and equitable way of resolving NJ Transit’s budget shortfall without fare increases, without service cuts, and without negatively impacting working families and urban areas.’ The proposal by New Jersey Transit would affect **47.3 percent** of Jersey City residents, who rely on mass transit daily.

“I am proud that the Jersey City Municipal Council has joined our efforts in opposition to NJ Transit’s tax on working families,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Recognizing that more than 120,000 Jersey City residents would be negatively impacted by this proposal, the Council has taken the necessary action to protect our city’s commuters and advocate for a different approach to resolving their budget shortfall. I want to thank Ray Greaves and the Amalgamated Transit Unit for their efforts playing an instrumental role in this effort.”

The resolution, which was passed on June 24th, augments already increasing opposition to the proposal. Last week, members of the ATU as well as elected officials in Bergen and Mercer counties joined in a united stance against the proposal. Mayor Fulop has drafted a letter to Governor Chris Christie, New Jersey Transit Board Members and NJ Transit Executive Director Ronnie Hakim explaining the crippling affects of the proposal and outlining alternative solutions to the budget gap. (see attached)

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“Jersey City residents depend on affordable and efficient mass transit,” said **Council President Rolando Lavarro, Jr.** “I urge NJ Transit to provide alternative solutions that do not come on the backs of New Jersey workers.”

Mayor Fulop in partnership with ATU launched in May an aggressive campaign called “Fight the Hike,” a non-profit entity, to raise awareness around NJ Transit’s fare hike and service cut proposal. Since the commencement of the campaign, “Fight the Hike” has garnered over **2,400** signatures for a petition against the NJ Transit plan, on their online website, www.notransithike.com. Additionally, more than 450 people attended public hearings and ATU has canvassed several transit hubs across New Jersey handing out literature on NJ Transit’s harmful proposal.

The Fight the Hike Campaign, recognizing the need to act now and not push the issue further down the line, has presented a three-pronged approach to eliminate the \$60 million NJ Transit budget shortfall. The measures include requiring NJ Transit to sell all vacant parcels of land owned by the agency statewide, establishing Transit Oriented Development (TOD) in urban areas as well as suburbs, and expanding bus and train capacity as ridership increases.

“I’d like to thank the nine members of the Jersey City Council and Mayor Fulop for standing with us and understanding the importance of our efforts” said **Ray Greaves, Chairman of the New Jersey Amalgamated Transit Unit Statewide Council.** “If passed, this fare hike and service cuts will without a doubt destroy working families who are struggling to make ends meet. The ATU will continue the fight and we welcome everyone to join us in the fight the hike campaign.”

The New Jersey Transit Board of Directors will vote on the proposal July 15th.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699. ////