



EPOA & MTA/LIRR Joint Statement regarding the Garden City Saint James Streets Rail Line October 30, 2018

As of follow-up to the Garden City Eastern Property Owners' Association ("EPOA") October 9, 2018 public meeting with MTA/LIRR representatives, the EPOA, Village Trustee Mark Hyer, Senator Kemp Hannon (kemphannon.com), and Assemblyman Ed Ra (nyassembly.gov/mem/Edward-P-Ra) met with a MTA/LIRR representative at the St. James Streets Rail Line between Washington Avenue and Clinton Road in Garden City ("St. James Streets Rail Line") for a site visit on October 25, 2018. The purpose of the site visit was to discuss late night trains, train idling, and overall usage of this line.

Background regarding MTA/LIRR Usage of the St. James Streets Rail Line

- MTA/LIRR uses this rail line for system-wide railroad maintenance, operations and construction support activities. Work on this track is not specifically related to the Third Track Expansion Project.
- In response to resident concerns specific to the St. James Streets Rail Line, MTA/LIRR has put in place long-term strategies effective immediately, which are summarized below.

Long-term Strategies

- 1) **Contractor Control:** MTA/LIRR personnel at the highest levels, including the President, are aware of resident concerns specific to the St. James Streets Train Rail Line. In response, the MTA/LIRR implemented oversight and control measures with respect to third party contractors that work on this line.
- 2) **Idling Trains:** Trains will no longer idle for extended periods of time during warmer weather due to MTA/LIRR Smart Start Technology which turns idling trains off automatically generally within one hour. This feature is not available at temperatures below 30° F. However, the MTA/LIRR will make efforts to not park idling locomotives on this stretch of the rail line for extended periods of time, unless necessary.
- 3) **Late Evening Track Usage:**
 - The MTA/LIRR is sensitive to off hours track work on the St. James Streets Rail Line with the goal to limit any late night train usage to the extent feasible.
 - In the event the MTA/LIRR, in advance, plans to use this rail line during the late evenings, the MTA/LIRR will notify the Village of Garden City in advance so nearby residents can be made aware. In case of emergency or sudden need to use the rail line in short order, the MTA/LIRR will need to use it without notice.

Future Relations with the MTA/LIRR

- The MTA/LIRR wants to be a good neighbor and has indicated that it will keep an open dialogue with the Village and the EPOA for the benefit of all of the parties involved. For further information, please contact the EPOA through the links below.