

RESOLUTION No. 2018-

Calling for Voting Transit-Dependent Members on the NFTA Board of Commissioners

BY:

Councilman Ezra Scott, Jr.
Councilman Kenny Tompkins
Council Chairman Andrew Touma

WHEREAS, the majority of Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority (NFTA) riders/users are low-income residents known as ‘Captive Riders’ who live in areas where there is limited NFTA service; and

WHEREAS, for many years, patrons who use NFTA buses have expressed concern with limited or poor service, infrequent buses, schedule problems, and a lack of accessibility for users to get from their homes to locations where people work and employers are desperately seeking employees, resulting in a lack of job opportunities in certain communities and in some cases, employers to withdraw from the local market; and

WHEREAS, in order to best address the needs of the NFTA’s riders, input from a ‘Captive Rider’ voting representative on the Board of Commissioners would provide valuable opportunities for transit-dependent users to have a seat at the table and to help educate NFTA management and commissioners on the needs of their patrons; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the lack of rider input on the Board of Commissioners, there is also a lack of participation and transparency at NFTA public hearings and board meetings that hinders input from the public as well and blocks riders and the public from having a voice to share their concerns and ask questions to NFTA management and the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, to help address the ‘Captive Rider’ issue and a lack of a transit voice on the voting membership of the NFTA Board of Commissioners, Senate Bill S.5106 has been introduced in the New York State Senate by Senator Timothy Kennedy to add two voting members to the NFTA Board of Commissioners who are transit-dependent and para-transit-dependent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Niagara Falls, New York City Council does hereby support the concept of adding a ‘Captive Rider’ voting member to the NFTA Board of Commissioners who has shown an extreme commitment to community service and is a resident of Niagara Falls, New York community lacking quality NFTA services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body expresses support for S.5106 and the intention behind adding two voting members to the NFTA Board of Commissioners to represent the transit community and para-transit community who use NFTA bus services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Andrew Cuomo, the Western New York delegation of the State Legislature, NFTA Executive Director Kimberley A. Minkel, NFTA Board of Commissioners Chair Denise A. Roche, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Kennedy _____ Scott _____ Tompkins _____ Voccio _____ Touma _____