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**THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

YDANIS RODRIGUEZ

COUNCIL MEMBER, 10TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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PLANNING DISPOSITION & CONCESSION

March 11, 2015

MTA Chairman Thomas F. Prendergast,

I am writing today to express my concerns regarding the M98 bus service which is further decreasing in quality. The M98 bus service is an essential means of transportation in our community. The lack of subway access to the East side causes those in our community to depend on the M98 to commute to work on the East Side, and then back home to Northern Manhattan. We owe these hardworking New Yorkers a quality of service that allows them a respite from their stressful days rather than continued frustration and stress.

Recent service changes have made the M98 bus less and less efficient for Northern Manhattan residents. Rather than continuing to 34th St, the bus was shortened to end at 68th. Since these service changes, the M98 bus service runs less often, and costs commuters an additional hour of their day with some estimating that service takes 2 hours in one direction. This is absolutely unacceptable and I urge you to extend the line back to 34th street, and allocate more buses to alleviate these concerns. More broadly speaking, shortening the M98 to 68th street has had the unintended implication of further overcrowding the already overcapacity Lexington Avenue Line. By cutting off service at 68th street the MTA encourages those who work further downtown to then board the 6 train to continue their commute, increasing commute times and increasing capacity.

By extending the line back to its original end point the MTA has the opportunity to alleviate some of the capacity issues on the Lexington Avenue line and make our transit system that much more efficient for residents of Northern Manhattan. It is imperative that a better more efficient system for the M98 bus service be implemented. As public servants, we must ensure that our City's transportation network is dependable, speedy, and well organized. In order to further both the MTA and my goal of incentivizing green modes of transit, of which public transportation is one, we must work hard to ensure that the system is reliable and efficient. I urge you to take action immediately to correct the failures of the M98 bus service and pledge to work hand-in-hand with your office to ensure the commute of Washington Heights residents is more fair, efficient, and reliable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ydanis Rodriguez".

Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez, Chair, Committee on Transportation