



**March 28, 2008**

## **Police, Fire Unions Come Out Against Congestion Pricing**

The [Uniformed Fire Officers Association](#) sent a memo to state legislators and City Council members today announcing their opposition to congestion pricing due to the impact it will have on members of the emergency service community.

The [PBA](#) is in accord with this, I'm told, but hasn't yet put out its statement.

Basically, the unions argue that this constitutes a change in their contracts as no provisions have been made to accommodate them, and thus should be negotiated.

Here's the UFOA memo in full:

"The bill, which is currently under consideration by you to approve a congestion-pricing plan in New York City, would have a dramatic impact upon members of the emergency service community.

For decades firefighters and fire officers have been granted parking privileges in the area around their assigned headquarters. This privilege was granted in part because of a recognition that our members must be moved from various fire houses due to staffing and manning exigencies.

This legislation would impose a substantial hardship on every firefighter who works in the congestion pricing zone, and on those who from time to time are ordered to a location within the zone.

The imposition of this fee constitutes a unilateral change in a term or condition of employment, which should be negotiated; or in the absence of such an agreement we should be exempted from the fee.

We ask you to vote no on this onerous proposal unless such an exemption is included in the legislation."

UPDATE: PBA President Pat Lynch just released his statement, the title of which (in all caps as it appears here), reads: "POLICE UNION PRESIDENT SLAMS CONGESTION PRICING, CALLING IT A "PAY CUT" FOR NEW YORK'S FINEST.

"Eight dollars a day, five days a week comes to \$2,000 over the course of a year and that's just too much to ask of the men and women who risk their lives fighting crime and terrorism in this city," Lynch said, noting that police officers are allowed to live outside the city where public transportation is not always available.

"The cost of this unwise plan would cut a police officer's take-home top pay by 5% at a time when the NYPD is already having an impossible time recruiting and retaining police officers," said Lynch.

"A vote for congestion pricing is a vote against New York City's police officers."