

# Keep NYC Free

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## **everyday heroes, they won't give up Senators stand v. tolls**

State Senate Democratic leader John Sampson and Senators Toby Stavisky and Tony Avella stepped up to the [plate](#) like the heroes in the song, *Stand My Ground*,<sup>1</sup> which lyrics give title to this commentary. Responding to [legislation](#) supporting [tolls](#) on free East River bridges proposed in Albany last week and on which Keep NYC Free [commented](#) earlier, Senators Stavisky and Avella [stated](#):

*“Tolls are a tax, and Middle Class families can't afford to keep paying more while getting less in return. The legislation proposed by Long Island and Upstate Senate Republicans to place tolls on the East River bridges will adversely affect commuters, small businesses and working families in outer-borough communities who have very limited access to public transportation.”*

In case some others in public office and otherwise – obviously not these Senators from Brooklyn and Queens who truly do “get it,” need a refresher, Keep NYC Free shares these core points:

\*Tolls aka Congestion Pricing aka Traffic Pricing – Keep NYC consistently calls it like the public knows the levy truly is: a *Congestion Tax* – got roundly disproved as an effective way to deal with congestion. It focuses only on people driving into the Central Business District (CBD) – not the heart of the congestion problem. And in any case traffic into the CBD continues to decline without any toll-tax scheme.

\*The governor makes plain his position against “new taxes”. If this statement applies to state and city governments, it should apply even more strongly to the MTA, which was the beneficiary of a huge new tax in 2009 and until recently has done very little to even try to control costs.

\*And if at some point a need for new revenues becomes demonstrated, its inefficiency, inequity and adverse economic impact disqualifies the Congestion Tax.

Read the entire Avella-Stavisky statement [here](#).

Read the New York Post [story](#).

1 *Stand My Ground* ([Jack Sundrud/Craig Bickhardt](#) – performing as [Idlewheel](#)):

V1: She stands there waitin' in the Greyhound station  
Sippin' on a nickel coke  
By the line that's segregatin'  
Whites from the colored folk  
Bus pulls up, she climbs on board  
Got a ticket for that ride  
Some fool tries to take her seat  
She sits in solemn pride  
She sits in solemn pride

CH: I plant my feet against the wind  
It won't knock me down  
I defend what I believe in  
And stand my ground  
Raise my voice against the hatred  
That swallows every sound  
Listen only to my heart  
I will stand my ground

V2: He walks to the edge of a few green acres  
As tears begin to fall  
Big dozer's about to turn  
His wheat field to a mall  
He turns around and sets his jaw  
And crosses two strong arms  
Says, unless you want to run me down  
You can't take this farm  
You can't take this farm

CH2: I plant my feet against the wind  
It won't knock me down  
I defend what I believe in  
And stand my ground  
Raise my voice against injustice  
That swallows every sound  
Listen only to my heart  
I will stand my ground

BR: Thank God for everyday heroes  
Who won't give up, when the odds are zero  
They're a lesson to us all  
The mighty and the small  
Every time my back is to the wall