

Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free

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WOULD A MANHATTAN CASINO COVER COST OF \$23 CONGESTION PRICING TAX FOR ITS CUSTOMERS

Or Will Patrons Go Elsewhere?

*New York-Nov. 30...*The planned \$23 Congestion Pricing Tax on vehicles traveling south of 60th in Manhattan would effectively kill off any plans for a Manhattan casino, the group Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free today predicted.

“Most out-of-borough gamblers wouldn’t travel to a Manhattan casino at night via public transportation; they would want the convenience of bringing a car,” said Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free spokesman Joshua Bienstock. “But why would anyone pay \$23 just to get to a casino when there will be other casinos within just a few miles that they could travel to for free? Any Manhattan casino operator would realistically have to cover that cost somehow, and we just don’t see that happening.”

Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts in Yonkers is actively pursuing a full casino table-gaming license — one of three downstate licenses that will be awarded by New York State — and it’s widely believed that it will be successful in its endeavor. Empire City is just 15 miles from Manhattan’s Times Square. Another casino license is being pursued for Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens, which is just 12 miles from Times Square.

“New York City and State are foolishly ignoring the law of unintended consequences in its continued plans to implement a congestion pricing tax,” Mr. Bienstock continued. “Taxes affect human behavior, and adding a \$23 paywall to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street would seriously damage Manhattan entertainment venues and the City’s efforts to repopulate vacant office space abandoned by work lifestyle changes that were accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic. New York stands to lose far more than it could gain from implementing this regressive, counterproductive new tax. Our leaders must awaken to reality before it’s too late.”

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Keep NYC Congestion Tax Free, a diverse coalition of civic, business, and labor organizations and businesses throughout New York City, argues that implementing a tax on vehicles traveling south of 60th Street in Manhattan will, among other things, permanently damage efforts to revitalize the two districts.