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Press Release

March 27, 2007

[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

MTA Statement Re: Attorney General Inquiry

The MTA has carefully reviewed the recent Opinion issued by the Attorney General concerning health benefits of board members of public authorities and is revising its health benefit practices to conform to that Opinion.

MTA, and many other public authorities, have historically provided to board members - who serve voluntarily and without compensation - the opportunity to participate in New York State's Health Insurance Plan. MTA's practice, like that of many other public authorities, has been to pay for the employer's share of the premium associated with such coverage, as is provided for in the regulations of the Department of Civil Service governing the State Health Insurance Plan. Four of MTA's 21 current board members have enrolled in such State coverage.

MTA provided board members the opportunity to participate in the State Health Insurance Plan based upon its understanding that this was fully consistent with state law and regulations governing the matter. The Attorney General's Opinion does not dispute that board members may lawfully participate in the State Health Plan, but draws into question the validity of continued premium contribution by public authorities. In view of the Attorney General's Opinion that now construes the law to prohibit such premium contributions, MTA will cease contributing to the cost of such coverage for its current board members.