

Press



Release

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For Immediate Release

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Wolfe: Unfair MTA Taxes Cost Rockland Millions, Must Be Repealed Now

New City, NY (July 23, 2015) – Rockland County Legislature Chairman Alden H. Wolfe brings the issue of unfair and costly MTA taxes to discussion Tuesday during a meeting of the Economic Development Committee.

"These taxes and fees are costing Rockland's businesses and residents millions of dollars but bringing very few, if any, benefits to them," Wolfe said. "They must be repealed now."

Since 2009, Rockland residents have been forced to pay more than \$35 million in MTA Supplemental Vehicle Registration and Licensing Fees, according to state Department of Motor Vehicles records.

Millions more have been paid out in the form of payroll taxes by for-profit businesses and even non-profit organizations that struggle daily to bring needed services to vulnerable Rockland residents.

Local governments have not been immune, a double-whammy for taxpayers.

In the case of Rockland County government alone, the payroll tax has cost taxpayers more than \$3.3 million since 2009, with another \$556,595 expected to be paid out in 2015.

"This is an anti-job creation tax," Wolfe said. "In fact, it's a flat-out job killer and it's past time for it to go."

The charges resulted after the state Legislature and Gov. Andrew Cuomo backed a \$2.26 billion bailout for the MTA in 2009. The agency consistently runs at a deficit and currently faces a \$15.2 million shortfall in its \$32 billion 2015-19 capital plan, according to the state Comptroller's Office.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is responsible for creating and implementing a mass transportation policy in the metropolitan area, including New York City's five boroughs and Rockland, Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Orange, Nassau and Suffolk counties.

While all regions are forced to pay the taxes and fees, Rockland and other counties see little bang for the buck when it comes to transportation services in their communities.

The committee will debate asking the state Legislature to repeal the taxes when it meets at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, in the Allison-Parris County Office Building, 11 New Hempstead Road in New City.

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