

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2022

Mr. John “Janno” Lieber
Chairman and CEO
New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Chairman Lieber:

On April 12, 2022, New York City experienced a horrifying mass shooting on a northbound N train in Sunset Park, Brooklyn that left 29 individuals injured.¹ This is yet another tragedy in a string of violent attacks that have occurred on the New York City Subway since the beginning of 2022. Given the disturbing and continued rise of subway attacks this year, we write to urge you to be more transparent regarding how your agency utilizes Federal funding to secure the subway system and protect riders.

According to media reports there are 10,000 cameras within the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (MTA) control, with 600 cameras in stations along the N line.² The MTA announced last September that they have installed cameras at all 472 subway stations.³ However, there are reports, which you confirmed on Friday, that cameras at the 36th Street station and the next two closest stations were not functioning due to internet connection.^{4,5}

As you are aware, Congress increased the Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP) funding by \$5 million to \$93 million in the recently enacted Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus spending package. As MTA has received almost \$50 million through the TSGP in FY21 and FY20,⁶ we ask that you answer the following questions on the MTA and TSGP funding:

1. How has the MTA utilized TSGP funding historically, and particularly over the last two fiscal years?
2. Over the last two fiscal years, how much TSGP funding has been specifically allocated for the MTA’s camera system, including maintenance of the system, installation of cameras and updating the cameras?
3. How often are cameras audited by the MTA or a third-party? What are the MTA’s processes and timelines for addressing identified problems?

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2022/04/12/brooklyn-subway-shooting/>

² <https://pix11.com/news/local-news/brooklyn/subway-security-cameras-malfunctioned-adams-says-after-brooklyn-attack/>

³ <https://new.mta.info/press-release/mta-announces-security-cameras-installed-all-472-subway-stations>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/13/nyregion/subway-shooting-cameras.html>

⁵ <https://nypost.com/2022/04/14/mta-ceo-janno-lieber-blames-subway-shooting-camera-fail-on-bad-internet-connection/>

⁶ https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_gpd_IB-451_FY_2020_Award_Announcement.pdf and https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ib-464-fy-2021-award-announcement_71321.pdf

With an average of over 2 million daily riders, the subway system is the lifeblood of New York City. Although the suspect responsible for this attack has been arrested, it is imperative that we have systems in place to keep riders safe and ensure attacks like this never happen again. That is why we call your attention to these important questions and look forward to your prompt response. Please provide answers to our questions in writing no later than April 30, 2022.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



RITCHIE TORRES
Vice Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security



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