



Old Astoria Neighborhood Association (OANA)
www.OANA-NY.org

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DISABLED DRIVERS, CONGESTION PRICING, AND PARKING

I am Richard Khuzami, of the OANA, and CB 1 Queens. I am speaking as President of OANA, not CB1.

I am a disabled driver, and greatly appreciate the exemption proposed for those with disabilities. However, we have some observations regarding the administrating of the Disability exemptions.

Many years ago, exemptions were given to the disabled to utilize permits in state parks, however, the system was abused by LI Railroad workers, who had Doctors create phone disability permits. Regretfully, when this was discovered, the state starting restricting the exemptions for ALL disabled persons. We think it is imperative that a similar situation be avoided.

To this end, we ask that only NYC Issued Disability Placards be honored with any exemptions such as proposed for congestion pricing, as they are confirmed by City Doctors. The State issued hanging placards should not be honored, because they are so easily falsified.

We would say that some sort of streamlined process be created to issue exemptions to holders of State issued hanging placards, regardless what state has issues them. This would involve confirming the diagnosis, perhaps through some sort of legal notarized statement from the issuing Dr so they will be held responsible, or through confirmation by a City Doctor. Perhaps neighboring states such as NJ or Ct can utilize their health system to issue confirmation of diagnosis.

On another front, we would like to see Residential Parking Permits be issues in neighborhoods that border the areas where Congestion Pricing will be effective. This includes areas like Astoria. We do not want to lose parking for residents of Western Queens to commuters who want to drive as far as possible, then switch to public transit to avoid the tolls to enter Manhattan via automobile.