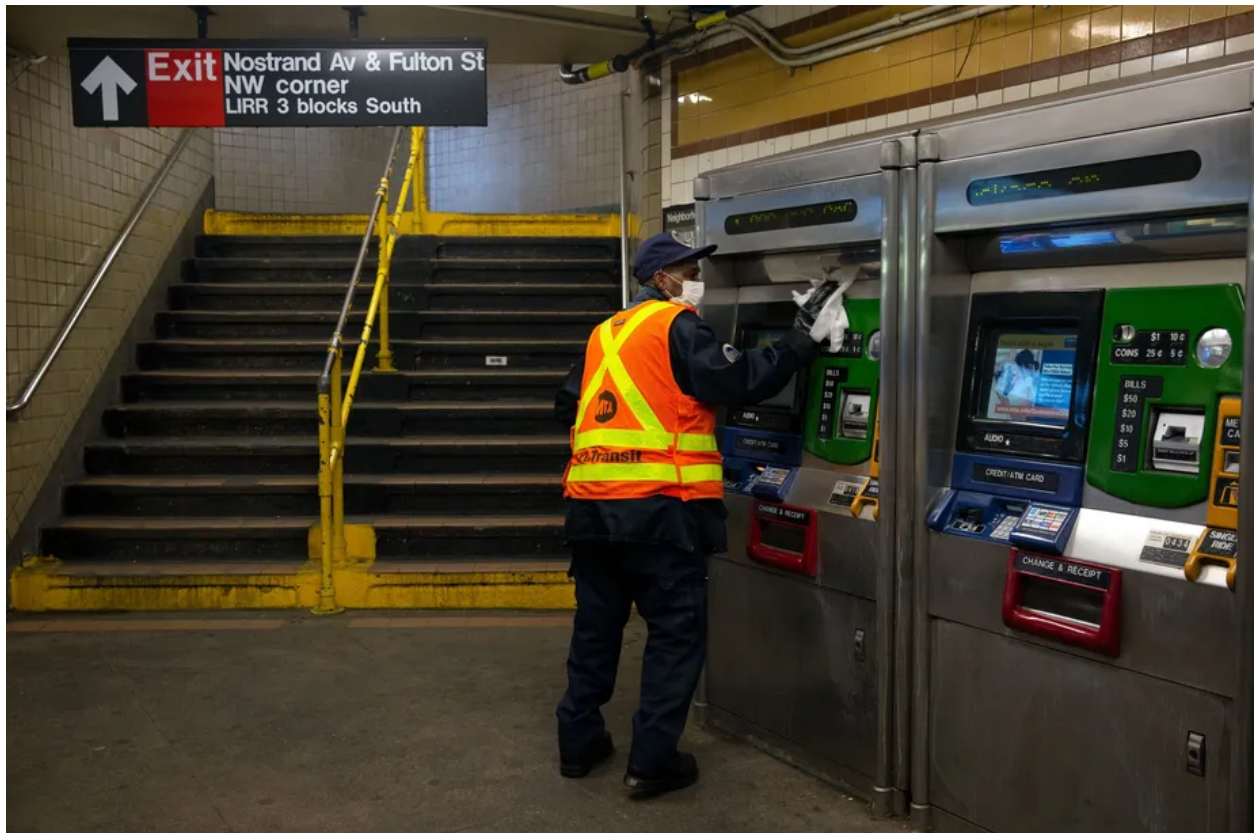


## Proposal For MTA and Covid-19

### *Problem*

Since the beginning of the MTA system, there have been city workers that work for the MTA their jobs are to clean after the people of the city. They pick up the trash, the biohazard, and the body fluids that end up in the stations sometimes. And as disgusting as that sounds, we have these types of jobs because we have to keep our city looking present to keep the people of our city happy. But when this pandemic hit, the MTA had a rule of shutting down the train stations from 1 am to 5 am to clean up the stations. Which then later changed to 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. in February of 2021. It was a pain in the neck for people who had to get places between those times, but it helped prevent more spread of not only COVID-19 but other viruses such as the Flu.



The MTA's annual budget, before the pandemic, was \$17 billion. From May 2020 to May 2021, the MTA has been spending about \$15 million monthly to clean about 472 stations across the city and a thousand subway cars. Not to mention the MTA was also in charge of

cleaning the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and the Metro-North's train stations and subway cars as well. But after May 2021, the MTA began to clean the stations and carts every 72 hours. Not to mention they do try to clean "high-touch surfaces" at least twice a day. So what can be the problem? Well, the problem isn't that the train carts aren't being cleaned enough, it's the stations and the main problem above all is the mask. People do not seem to understand that although yes, we do have a vaccine now and we can try to prevent the virus and hospitalization of those who did happen to catch the virus. But this vaccine is not a prevention of the virus as a whole. But one doesn't want to overstep and cause an uproar between the people and the government, one has the right to their body and how they treat it, but what happens when one's actions towards their own body cause a threat to so many others?

### ***Solution***

From November 10, 2021, to November 23, 2021, there were about 18,534 COVID cases in New York City. And that's about 1,373 new cases daily since June 16, 2021. How did we get this high in new cases? Well, the reasoning can be the rise in anti-maskers who happen to have gotten vaccinated. The most important thing that the MTA can probably get their hands on is to get the ability to do what they were doing before. Handing out PPA to New Yorkers who are lacking the corduroy to put on a mask and keep other New Yorkers and themselves safe.



Yes, the need to regain a sense of normal in New York City is in high demand by its people, but it's not likely to come shortly. People need to continue to wear their masks and the NYPD is a party that can help make sure this is kept in power.

As problematic as the NYPD has become over the past year, their job is still apparent; protect the people of New York City. The city is being threatened by the delta variant, and now the new variant omicron, so people must use their masks indoors, and the train is no exception. I propose the NYPD begin to ticket people on the trains who aren't wearing masks, and if they do not wish to ticket someone, give them a mask. I believe the MTA should accept volunteers to help hand out PPA like the woman in the picture above. I only suggest a person getting ticketed if it's seen that they are going against the mask's mandate and the volunteer giving them a way out of getting ticketed, that's on them now.

By enforcing this mask mandate a little more forcefully, although yes people are struggling with money due to this pandemic, they need to understand how serious this is. This is not a political game, it's not an opinion one can respect, it's a threat to human life. We have lost so many people to this terrible virus. If we can stop or slow down the spread, why not help? Why is this something that needs to be argued from a political standpoint, yes me including the NYPD causes controversial opinions, when your wallet is attacked you tend to learn faster than when your wallet is not hurt.

## Bibliography

### Secondary Sources |

The first photo is of a man cleaning the machine, and the second photo is of a woman handing out PPA to subway riders.

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