



Staten Island finance professor to aid in review of Port Authority toll study

Judy L. Randall | randall@siadvance.com By **Judy L. Randall | randall@siadvance.com**

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A College of Staten Island professor of finance, who has expertise in transportation issues, Wednesday will look over the economic impact data the Port Authority **released to Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis** under a judge's order.

Dr. Jonathan Peters was asked by Ms. Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn) to help her interpret the raw study data at the heart of arguments that high bridge tolls have a negative impact on Staten Island businesses, chiefly the New York Container Terminal in Mariners Harbor.

The bi-state agency was told to give Ms. Malliotakis a "key" and a set of questions so she could interpret the raw answers, according to **an order issued last Friday by Supreme Court Judge Joseph Maltese**.

Without them, the information is incomprehensible, Ms. Malliotakis said, likening it to Morse code.

But in complying with the judge's mandate, Ms. Malliotakis told the Advance that a letter from the P.A. indicated "a 'key' to interpret the data does not exist."

"However," she added, "they did provide two sample copies of the surveys used to compile the report."

She said she will be working with Peters "over the next several days in an attempt to analyze it all."

As part of his ruling, Maltese said he wanted to be given the same raw data as well as any analyses and conclusions the P.A. had drawn. He'll then decide whether the information can be released to the public. He could rule by the end of the week.



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Dr. Jonathan Peters is a professor of finance in CSI's business department, according to the school's website, and a research fellow at the University Transportation Research Center at the City College of New York.

In withholding the study -- partially paid for with taxpayer money -- the P.A. argued that it was in draft form and therefore, the agency was not obliged to release it.

Peters is a professor of finance in CSI's business department, according to the school's website, and a research fellow at the University Transportation Research Center at the City College of New York.

They are expected to sit down at 3 p.m. in Ms. Malliotakis' Midland Beach Assembly district office.

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