



Coalition for Equitable Community Development

Promoting an economically and racially diverse community of Hyde Park—Kenwood

September 26, 2011

Editor
Hyde Park Herald
1435 E. Hyde Park Blvd
Chicago, IL 60615

RE: Proposed Metra Fare Increases

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition for Equitable Community Development, a coalition of individuals, and civic, religious and business organizations in the greater Hyde Park area who are concerned about affordability and diversity in our community. We wish to add our voice to those who have expressed concern about the proposed Metra fare increases. In particular, we are concerned that the proposed increases will unfairly burden the low and moderate income residents of our community who rely on Metra to commute to work.

While we appreciate Metra's need for additional revenue, an analysis of the proposal shows that the Hyde Park commuter is shouldering a disproportionate share of the increase. The Hyde Park-Kenwood stations are in Zone B for downtown commuters. Zone B is seeing the largest fare increases: namely, 66.7%, while the outer suburban areas (Zone D) are receiving only a 30.6% increase. If you look at it from the point of view of cost per mile, a Hyde Park commuter using 56th Street station will be paying \$15 per mile, while a commuter from Winnetka will be paying only \$8 per mile.

We encourage the Hyde Park Herald to investigate this matter more fully. Specifically, we would like to know why Metra, a predominately suburban agency, has decided to increase city commuters' fares at twice the rate of most suburban commuters. The Electric Line, in particular, primarily serves city commuters; therefore, the fare increase affects these users more than other suburban lines. So far, we have not heard a good answer.

Sincerely,

Pat Wilcoxon
President, CECD