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THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

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CONSUMER PROTECTION  
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CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TOURISM,  
PARKS & RECREATION  
JUDICIARY

August 7, 2013

Margaret Forgione  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
New York City Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

As a New York State Senator representing parts of the Upper West Side, I write in support of the July 22 letter sent to you by Mark Diller, Chair of Manhattan Community Board 7 (CB7), requesting the installation of a photo speed violation monitoring system, or "speed camera," in the P.S.199 school zone, at West 70th Street between Amsterdam and West End Avenues.

I was proud to support S4459A, which was signed into law on July 31, establishing a demonstration program to enforce maximum speed limits by means of speed cameras in school zones plagued by speeding. I understand that the law provides for the installation of only 20 speed cameras in such school zones throughout all of New York City, and that the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) will be selecting sites based on criteria including, but not limited to, speed data, crash history, and roadway geometry as outlined by Section 1180-B(1) of the law. I believe that West 70<sup>th</sup> Street, outside the P.S. 199 school building, meets all of these criteria and unquestionably warrants a speed camera.

As Mr. Diller describes in his letter, the grade and dimensions of the northwest corner of West End Avenue encourage speeding. At the opposite end of the block, the road narrows, creating a bottleneck for traffic, further inducing motorists to speed. In addition, the threat to pedestrian safety is exacerbated by the school's proximity to the 72<sup>nd</sup> Street entrance to New York Route 9A. When northbound traffic approaching the highway entrance on West End Avenue is congested, impatient motorists often turn off the avenue onto West 70<sup>th</sup> Street to access alternate routes and speed along the stretch of open road.



Hon. Margaret Forgione

August 7, 2013

Page 2

the avenue onto West 70<sup>th</sup> Street to access alternate routes and speed along the stretch of open road.

Further still, as the law established, the city may consider additional factors that evince the need for a speed camera to supplement traffic enforcement measures. Many of my constituents, who cross the dangerous roadway, have expressed serious concerns about the frequency of near misses, which are not measured by crash statistics, on this stretch of West 70<sup>th</sup> Street. I believe these close calls are also worthy of DOT's consideration.

Finally, it's worth noting that there is also a heavily-utilized public park adjoining the school yard that is used by area children throughout the year, whether or not school is in-session. Speed cameras – and the ensuing reduction in speeding – would make the area safer for children year-round.

Thank you for considering my request, and for your dedication to the safety of all New Yorkers. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (212) 633-8052.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brad Hoylman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brad Hoylman  
New York State Senate  
27<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Manhattan Community Board 7