



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JOHN WEIS
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

February 2, 2011

Sheldon Silver, Esq.
Speaker
New York State Assembly
250 Broadway
Suite 2370
New York, New York 10007

Dean G. Skelos
Majority Leader
New York State Senate
55 Front Street
Rockville Centre, New York 11570

Re: Legislation Allowing Cameras to Enforce Speed Limits

Dear Speaker and Majority Leader:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) fully supports Introductions # A7744 and S4393 in the New York Assembly and State respectively, which would authorize the City of New York to use camera technology to enforce existing speed limits and complement the efforts of the NYPD. Automated speed enforcement would be deployed in high-collision locations without regard to fine revenues. As proposed in the legislation, fines issued from these cameras would be at a reduced rate and the ticket would not add any points to the driver's license.

CB4 calls on the respective houses to pass this legislation as quickly as possible and for the Governor to sign it. We ask furthermore, that the New York City Council, Mayor, Department of Transportation and Police Department to fully support this legislation.

We recommend that the NYPD consult with Community Boards for possible placement of cameras, as the community is well aware of local conditions.

Speed is the major cause of deadly crashes in New York City, claiming four times more lives than drunken driving and two times more lives than distracted driving. In 2009, 63 people were killed and 2,150 people were injured as the result of speed-related crashes in New York City. Motor vehicles are the leading cause of death due to injury among children. ¹

¹ NY Health Department 2010 Report from the Child Fatality Review, June 2010

Pedestrians are at a heightened risk of injury in speed-related crashes: if a pedestrian is hit by a car at 30 mph there is an 20 percent chance the pedestrian will be killed, but if the driver strikes a pedestrian at 40 mph – only 10 mph above the speed limit-, the chances the pedestrian will be killed increase to 70 percent!²

The 2010 Child Fatality Review offers recommendations for how to keep New York's children safe. With regards to transportation, it recommends stronger enforcement of traffic violations and allowing cameras to enforce speeding laws on dangerous speeds. Automated speed enforcement cameras, which are already in use in over 70 localities, in the US and many countries in the world, have been shown to reduce injuries and fatalities by 40-45 percent.³

Law enforcement agencies have been given increasing responsibilities without commensurate increases in staffing levels. This results in chronic under-enforcement of traffic laws, where technology could fill the gap and save lives.

We wish the house would also consider increasing the number of red-light cameras deployed in New York City.

CB4 urges the respective houses to pass as quickly as possible this legislation and for the Governor to sign it.

Sincerely,



John Weis
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



Christine Berthet
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee



Jay Marcus
Co-Chair
Transportation Planning Committee

Cc:
Mayor Bloomberg
C. Quinn, G. Brewer, T. Duane
R. Gottfried, L. Rosenthal, S. Stringer
B. De Blasio, R. Kelly, J. Sadik Kahn
J. Vacca, D.Gantt, S. Fuschillo

² Rosen, E., Sander, U. *Pedestrian Fatality as a Function of Car Impact Speed. Accident Analysis and Prevention.* 41: 531-542, 2009.

³ Wilson, C., Willis, C., Hendrikz, J.K., & Bellany, N., *Speed Enforcement Detection Devices for Preventing Road Traffic Injuries, The Cochrane Database.*