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July 10, 2011

Hon Gale Brewer,
New York City Council
563 Columbus Ave,
New York New York 10024

Dear Council Member Brewer,

CHEKPEDS is very grateful for your leadership in enacting the “Saving Lives through Information” bill earlier this year. This is a perfect example on how technology can help transparency and improve service to residents. The NYPD published statistics for the month of May 2011 and we have some concerns.

Although the law requires the information to be disaggregated by precinct, the Transportation Bureau provided summonses on a citywide basis only. This is unfortunate because the Bureau writes 40% of the city total. This is also of concern because the distribution of summonses for the Transportation Bureau is atypical compared to the Boroughs. We hope the Transportation Bureau reporting will be brought in compliance with the law shortly, as without such breakdown the precinct numbers are severely skewed.

In addition, we'd like your help in clarifying these items:

- Are all “spillback “ summonses included in the report (Traffic Enforcement Agents do write such summonses as well)?
- What is included in each of the following categories “ Disobey Signs “ and “Fail to Stop on Signal”?

It may be useful for the NYPD to publish on the web page an official point of contact for questions on these statistics. With wider distribution there will be many questions to answer.

These statistics are already yielding valuable insights that we shall bring to your attention once the data is fully reliable. We thank you and your staff's continued support.

C. Berthet, co-founder, M. Treat, co founder,

Cc: J. Lapin
Cc: J. Vacca
Cc: C. Quinn
Cc: Transportation Alternatives