



Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
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Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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September 29, 2020

Hon. Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Re: Regarding DOT Street Safety Improvements on Amsterdam Avenue

Dear Commissioner, Trottenberg:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, with a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 0 not voting, Community Board 12 Manhattan, passed a resolution calling upon NYC DOT to take immediate steps to address the dangerous current conditions Amsterdam's northern end, with a focus on the heaviest pedestrian crossings of 182nd, 185th, 187th and 189th Streets.

Whereas: Amsterdam Avenue ("Amsterdam") north of 181st Street is home to a number of schools and other educational institutions, including Yeshiva University ("YU"), Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS) (a K-12 public school), the Marsha Stern Talmudical Academy (also known as Yeshiva University High School for Boys), J.H.S. 143 Eleanor Roosevelt, P.S. 189, and Comunilife; and

Whereas: Amsterdam between 181st and 190th Streets in Manhattan is also home to many small businesses including delis, groceries, restaurants, nail and beauty salons, laundromats and other retail and services that serve the diverse community that lives, works and attends school in the area; and

Whereas: Current features of Amsterdam Avenue in the described area include a closed northbound street lane between 184th and 186th St., and posted restriction of traffic to buses and local deliveries between the hours of 8:00 am and 11:00 pm; and

Whereas: According to data published by the New York Police Department (NYPD), between August 2018 and July 2020, there have been 173 reported traffic collisions and 56 injuries occurring along this nine-block stretch. The NYPD data for these incidents identify numerous instances of speeding and aggressive driving as contributing factors; and

Whereas: A September 3, 2020 letter to Department of Transportation Commissioner Trottenberg and signed by the City, State and Federal representatives of the area, the Manhattan Borough President; the Community Superintendent, District 6; the school leaders of each of the schools and universities listed above; and numerous small business owners, asked with urgency that NYC DOT take four steps "to respond to this growing crisis on our streets." Demands included installation of traffic calming devices at 182nd, 185th, 187th and 189th Streets; enforcement of existing posted regulations; contribution of DOT pedestrian plaza program capital dollars to the installation of new pedestrian space along this corridor (including the Amsterdam Avenue Pedestrian Plaza), and inclusion in NYC's Open Streets program.

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan calls upon NYC DOT to take immediate steps to address the dangerous current conditions Amsterdam's northern end, with a focus on the heaviest pedestrian crossings of 182nd, 185th, 187th and 189th Streets, with the full complement of approaches that can be brought to bear, be it traffic regulation, best practice traffic calming tools or other approaches, with the objective of improving safety for the many pedestrians of all walks of life, as they walk on Amsterdam.

Sincerely,



Eliazar Bueno
Chairperson

cc: Hon. Edward F. Pincar Jr. Manhattan Borough
Commissioner
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Jumaane Williams Public Advocate
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Gale Brewer, Borough President
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodríguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member