



Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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December 1, 2020

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

Re: Resolution on Expansions of Existing Speed Cameras to Mitigate Speed Racing

Dear Commissioner, Trottenberg:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020, with a vote of 36 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstentions, 0 not voting, Community Board 12 Manhattan passed a resolution requesting the Expansion of Existing Speed Cameras to mitigate Speed Racing and urging our local elected officials to ensure that Senate Bill 8980 and corresponding Assembly Bill 11042 does not permit coordination with any agencies other than those responsible for ticketing and public safety, as it relates to the issue of speed racing. Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the legislative intention of mitigating speed racing on NYC streets and the efforts to provide the community board with authority to recommend locations of speed cameras to be used and using data to drive that process, along with community input.

Whereas: The FURIOUS Act introduced in the NY State Senate would allow speed cameras to operate overnight and on weekends near street racing hotspots in school zones, expanding the use of existing speed cameras;

Whereas: The FURIOUS Act would also amend sections of our Vehicle and Traffic Law to allow the City of New York to operate speed cameras at any time in a school speed zone which the City has identified as an area of particular concern for illegal street racing, with input from the local community;

Whereas: Washington Heights is rich in diversity with a strong, vibrant immigrant community. ACLU reports from 2019 have raised concerns over the privacy practices of agencies overseeing cameras around the country, as they have been used to enforce racist and targeted immigration policy with the most significant problem being "mission creep" --data collected by these cameras are sometimes used for purposes other than tracking reckless drivers. NY State has passed previous legislation prohibiting state and local police from conducting stops or arrests based solely on perceived immigration status and preventing government agencies from inquiring about immigration status when an individual seeks aid or reports a crime. NY City Council has also passed legislation barring ICE from access to city data and institutions for the additional protection of vulnerable populations;

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Whereas: Community Board 12 and New York City have seen a substantial increase in street racing in 2020 compared to city data from 2019 and have heard residents and law enforcement's concerns on this serious public safety concern and supports efforts to mitigate speed racing our streets. We stand against any encroachment of citizen surveillance and anti-privacy efforts impacting vulnerable populations. Therefore be it;

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan urges our local elected officials to ensure that Senate Bill 8980 and corresponding Assembly Bill 11042 does not permit coordination with any agencies other than those responsible for ticketing and public safety, as it relates to the issue of speed racing; and be it further;

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the legislative intention of mitigating speed racing on NYC streets and the efforts to provide the community board with authority to recommend locations of speed cameras to be used and using data to drive that process, along with community input. As the legislation reads: this would be done by obtaining a majority vote by community board members in a specific school zone and after a public hearing is conducted.

Sincerely,



Eleazar 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 Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member

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