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SENATOR JOSE PERALTA
13TH DISTRICT

**DEMOCRATIC WHIP
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March 18, 2013

Ms. Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

I am writing to urge you to take a close look at the intersection of Junction Blvd. and Horace Harding Expressway in Queens with an eye toward improving pedestrian safety, particularly that of the children of nearby P.S. 206, who must navigate this very heavily trafficked area on their way to and from school without the help of a crossing guard.

For your reference, I am attaching my letter of September 6, 2012, to the 110th and 112th precincts, as well as a letter from the principal of P.S. 206, Joan Thomas, requesting the restoration of a school crossing guard at this dangerous intersection.

I have been advised by these precincts that neither will be assigning a crossing guard to this location. I believe that, as a result, action by the Department of Transportation is required to ensure the safety of the children of P.S. 206.

I strongly recommend that this intersection be among the locations at which speed cameras are piloted. As you are well aware, the Horace Harding Expressway's wide lanes are designed to quickly move a high volume of vehicles onto and off of the Long Island Expressway. While that may be ideal for the flow of vehicular traffic, it represents a danger to pedestrians, including local residents, shoppers and, most especially, elementary school children.

I am by no means suggesting the deployment of speed cameras as an alternative to a crossing guard. Rather, I propose the installation of speed cameras at this intersection as merely one way to address the threat that the heavy flow of vehicular traffic, often at high rates of speed, represents to all pedestrians, including school children.

Quite simply, there is no substitute for the direct, hands-on traffic control and help that a crossing guard can provide to children. In the absence of a crossing guard, however, any measures you deem necessary and can launch promptly to ensure the safety of the P.S. 206 children will be most welcome.

Thank you. I look forward to your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jose Peralta', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jose Peralta
New York State Senator, 13th District

cc Maura McCarthy, Queens Borough Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation
Joan L. Thomas, Principal, P.S. 206 The Horace Harding School