

SENATOR RUBÉN DÍAZ
32ND DISTRICT

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 606
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247
(518) 455-2511
FAX (518) 426-6945

DISTRICT OFFICE
900 ROGERS PLACE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10459
(718) 991-3161
FAX (718) 991-0309



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STATE OF NEW YORK

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
AGING COMMITTEE

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Open Letter to Commissioner Sadik-Khan

September 18, 2013

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

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

This letter is to request your immediate attention to an urgent matter that is affecting and damaging many small businesses due to construction and repairs that are being done at and near the intersection of Westchester Avenue and Castle Hill Avenue in The Bronx.

You should be aware that this construction project deters and blocks people from entering shops on Westchester Avenue. It is an outrage to learn that this construction is planned to continue for seven months. This construction is practically closing the doors of the small businesses in this area. This is no way to help small businesses. The damage to the local economy cannot be overlooked.

Closing both sides of the street of this main intersection is going to cause serious damage to the local economy. This project should be completed one side and section of the street of at a time leaving the other side open. The way it is being done now is forcing small businesses in the area to close their doors and risk going bankrupt and out of business. I am concerned that if you don't make the necessary changes, many of those minority enterprises might go out of business.

Attached, please find photos of the area in reference to my serious concerns. Looking forward to your prompt intervention.

Sincerely,

Senator Reverend Ruben Diaz

cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Assembly Member Luis Sepulveda
Council Member Annabel Palma
Community Planning Board 9
media