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SENATOR ROXANNE J. PERSAUD
19TH SENATE DISTRICT

PLEASE RESPOND TO:

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1222 EAST 96TH STREET
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11236
718-649-7653
FAX: 718-649-7661

John Hanke
Chief Executive Officer
Niantic, Inc.
2 Bryant St., #220
San Francisco, CA 94105

Monday, July 18, 2016

Dear Mr. Hanke,

I write to urge you and Niantic, Inc. to add a new layer of warnings to Pokémon GO. The potential for a mandatory warning screen to reach all players, especially children, may help curb the numerous incidents of injury, near-accidents, and problematic behavior that are littering tabloids and newspapers globally.

Your new app for Android and iOS phones is fundamentally a fantastic blend of the real world mixed with imagination and creativity. I was heartened to see the landmarks, institutions and noteworthy sites and architecture, amongst others, that anchor interactions between players and the virtual reality that grows out of our actual surroundings.

However, as you are undoubtedly aware, many individuals lose their hold on what's happening around them while playing. Some walk into objects. Others, the street and traffic. Still others are trespassing on property for the sake of engaging in a "gym battle," and there are suggestions from tech experts that a number of data sources users give the application access to can be easily compromised due to the manner in which users create profiles for the game.

I urge you add more than the current warning screen that displays whenever a user freshly loads the application. **Please review the feasibility of a second warning screen that succinctly reminds users of the world around them, or consider a warning bar, much like your "GPS Not Found" bar, that will sporadically come down from the top of the screen.** Neither option interferes with users ability to play or enjoy the game. And both may help keep people safe. Especially when many users are children, absorbed into a living fantasy, a brief wake up call will help them look up from time to time. And that can go a long way addressing at least one of the problems mentioned above.

Pokémon GO is a great chance for users to learn about the world around them, and I hope you will work with me to make sure playing is done as responsibly and safely as possible.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via phone at 718-649-7653 or via mail at 1222 East 96th Street, Brooklyn, NY.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxanne Persaud".

Roxanne Persaud
Senator, 19th District
New York State Senate

