



FELDER FOCUS



IT'S CHAOS!

City driving was never for the faint of heart, but all the bicycles, e-bikes and e-scooters of various speeds and sizes has pushed anxiety to an all-time high. Driving down Coney Island Avenue recently, a cyclist weaving through traffic

cut me off and sped right past my car. My breath caught in my chest as I slammed the brake. Unfazed, he cycled on illegally crossing the double yellow line to speed off through oncoming traffic. It is increasingly common to encounter bicycle, e-bike and e-scooter riders navigating NYC streets like a video game, as if another life was just a click away.

Cars and drivers are highly regulated, but someone is asleep at the wheel when it comes to regulating bikes and e-vehicles. Navigating sidewalks, streets and parks is a bloody battle for pedestrians, too. For every tragic headline, many more alarming reports pour into my

office stressing the urgency to educate and regulate the swelling number of bicycles and e-vehicles. We all want safe streets, and we all must share the responsibility. One road, one rule is the only way forward.

Education and road rules for cyclists should have been codified back in 2013 with the launch of Citi Bike that promoted cycling to the mainstream. Vision Zero was introduced a year later, but the number of cyclist injuries and fatalities from 2013-2019 remain comparable. With street safety still out of control, a host of e-vehicles have entered the fray. While bikes and e-vehicles are not cars, they are responsible for a rapidly rising number of catastrophic injuries and fatalities. We must do better.

STREETSBLOG

NYC June 15, 2021

Bronx Cyclist Dies in Solo Crash Inside Van Cortlandt Park

A Bronx cyclist is dead of blunt-force trauma after falling off her bicycle. She was found by passersby lying on the roadway unconscious and unresponsive, with head trauma, cops said. Police said she was not wearing a helmet. (Cyclists over the age of 13 are not required to do so in New York City.)

Continued on page 2

NEW YORK POST

July 4, 2021

Cyclist Clinging To Life after Crashing into Pedestrian in Prospect Park

Gothamist

August 6, 2021

Scooter Operator Arrested In Hit-And-Run Death Of "Gone Girl" Actor Lisa Banes

CBS NEWS

June 1, 2021

E-Bike Crash that Killed Queens Woman Sparks Calls for Safety Measures to Protect Pedestrians on NYC Streets

8 years later, the city has no mechanism for education or enforcement. To operate a bicycle or e-vehicle capable of speeds above the average speed limit on NYC streets, a person simply needs to jump on and go. Drivers, by comparison, study road rules to pass a permit test, take a safety course and supervised practice, before passing a road test.

To reduce injuries to New Yorkers, everyone in a passenger vehicle must be seat belted and everyone on a motorcycle must wear a helmet. It defies logic

NEW YORK POST

June 5, 2021

Tourist Critical after Scooter Hit-and-Run Amid Rash of NYC Traffic Accidents

that NYC still has no helmet law for adult cyclists and many classes of e-vehicle riders. In NYC, you can weave through traffic and speed through red lights un-helmeted, often with no lights or reflective gear in poor visibility conditions, posing a grave risk to yourself and others.

If we want safer streets for everyone, then the next step forward is clear - the system that governs vehicles on our roads must include every legal vehicle. Ensure everyone is educated in road rules and held accountable for breaking them. Register and plate vehicles so we have hard data and license plates to aid enforcement. Update Drivers Education with a double licensure path - driving and cycling - creating a generation that considers their actions equally from both sides. Allowing people to ride untrained, unprotected, and unaccountable among millions of cars, trucks and pedestrians, is not only disgraceful, it is deadly.

ONE ROAD ONE RULE

BECOMING A LICENSED DRIVER

- Complete and demonstrate proficiency of DMV Driver's Education course and pass a DMV driving test to receive a license.
- Licensed drivers must register their vehicle with DMV and affix official plates.
- Insurance is mandatory.
- Drive in accordance with the law or face enforcement penalties.
- Seatbelts or motorcycle helmets required.

BECOMING A LICENSED CYCLIST

- Complete and demonstrate proficiency of DMV Bicycle, E-Bike Education course and apply for an official bicycle license.
- Licensed bicycle, E-bike riders must register their vehicle with DMV and affix official plates.
- Insurance is mandatory.
- Cycle in accordance with the law or face enforcement penalties.
- Helmets and reflective gear required.

CITY & STATE
NEW YORK



2021 Brooklyn Power 100

#19 State Senator Simcha Felder



While a younger generation of state senators is ascending in Brooklyn, the borough has a few savvy veterans in the state Legislature who still retain plenty of power. When the chamber was narrowly divided a few years ago, Senator Simcha Felder was a pivotal player, wooed by both Republicans and Democrats. When Democrats seized a majority he was initially sidelined - but he is back making headlines for tackling issues such as bike and scooter safety and coronavirus restrictions in the Orthodox Jewish communities he represents.

Clean Sidewalks - Dirty Agents

Felder Fights Ticket Fraud

To put an end to fraudulent sanitation tickets, Councilman Yeger and I brought volumes of new evidence to Department of Sanitation (DSNY) headquarters and demanded an investigation into the offending agents who issued falsified tickets and the OATH officers who failed to report incriminating evidence for investigation.

Exhibit A shows time stamped video evidence refuting the details attested to on the ticket. Not only is the premises clean at the time of the summons, but the only evidence of a sanitation car occurs outside of routing hours and hours after the time stated on the violation.

Exhibit B shows time stamped video evidence of a sanitation enforcement agent parking his car at 8:02 and 52 seconds. He immediately exits his car at 8:03 and 9 seconds with a pre- filed ticket in hand. He crosses the street and posts the fraudulent

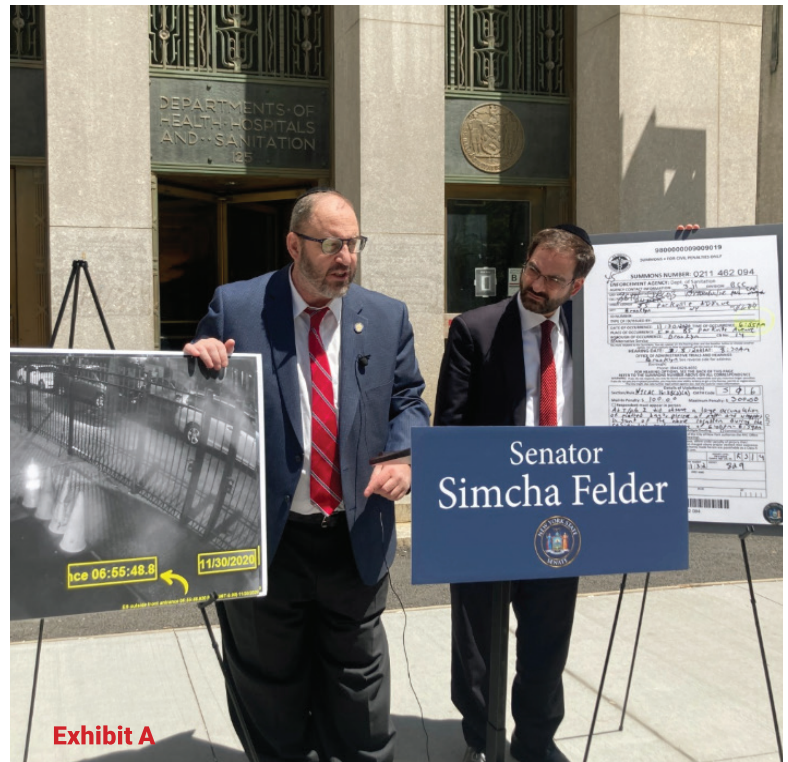


Exhibit A

ticket without ever inspecting the (clean) area.

Legislation I sponsored in the NYS Senate (S6320) would require all NYC agencies issuing summonses to photo document the violation. Councilmembers Yeger and Maisel have proposed a similar bill (Int 1006) in the NYC City Council.

“Last time I checked, Americans were innocent until proven guilty. This system stinks! Sanitation enforcement agents fabricate violations and issue tickets outside of routing hours while unscrupulous OATH officers bury the evidence. Instead of looting the pockets of hardworking New Yorkers, the city could wipe out fraud and solve this problem easily.” - Senator Felder

In a third case, a constituent called my office after she was issued two DSNY sanitation tickets for the exact same violation. Her two-family house is clearly and legally one building. Because one house has two apartments, each with a separate house number, DSNY enforcement was intent on punishing the owner twice. It took eight months of work to finally have the duplicate ticket successfully removed, saving her \$300 during this very difficult time.



Exhibit B 1



Exhibit B 2

TO REPORT SANITATION FRAUD:

Online: <https://a032-secure.nyc.gov/p/ofcomplaint.html> **Telephone:** (212) 825-5959

Mail: NYC Department of Investigation – Complaint Bureau 180 Maiden Lane, 16th Floor New York, NY 10038

Senator Felder's Hospital Survey

Hospital and Nursing home care has been one of the most important issues we have dealt with recently. **Your feedback is critical.**

If you or a loved one recently spent time in a hospital, ER or nursing home, please consider taking a few minutes to respond to these questions as it relays to you or a family member.

- 1. How often did medical staff relay health information in a way you can understand?**
 Never Sometimes Usually Always
- 2. How often did staff explain medicine that you were administered and possible side effects?**
 Never Sometimes Usually Always
- 3. How often did medical staff treat you with courtesy and respect?**
 Never Sometimes Usually Always
- 4. How often were you able to get help soon after it was requested?**
 Never Sometimes Usually Always
- 5. If you had to wait, how long did you wait for assistance?**
 Less than 30 minutes 30-60 minutes 1-2 hours More than 2 hours
- 6. How often did you receive conflicting information from medical staff?**
 Never Sometimes Usually Always
- 7. How satisfied were you with the cleanliness and hygiene of the facility?**
 Completely Mostly Somewhat Not at all
- 8. From the time you arrived in the ER, how long did it take for medical staff to take care of you?**
 Less than 30 minutes 30-60 minutes 1-2 hours More than 2 hours
- 9. How well was your privacy protected?**
 Completely Mostly Somewhat Not at all
- 10. Would you recommend this facility to family and friends?**
 Completely Mostly Somewhat Not at all
- 11. Name one thing that would significantly improve your experience.**

- 12. Optional: If you would like, please name the facility.**

Return to my office via email: felder@nysenate.gov or fax: 718-253-2030



HATE AND ANTI-SEMITISM: The Education We Need!

Op Ed By Senator Felder Reprinted from The Daily News

Here in the city that so fondly celebrates its unrivaled diversity, anti-Semitism has reared its ugly head and our public education system is failing us. The attempted genocide of the Jewish people happened not long ago, in a time not very different from ours, under circumstances quite similar to ours. Yet, we have been failing for years to impart to young people history's relevance to us, today.

New York, we have a problem.

Educating the young is invaluable, but we cannot neglect the dangerous knowledge gaps that already exist in those charged with the responsibility to educate. A recent survey revealed disturbing misbeliefs and shameful gaps in knowledge among New York's respondents. For example, compared to national averages, twice as many New Yorkers believe that the Holocaust did not happen and that neo-Nazi views are acceptable!

New York schools have made some disastrous headlines over the years. In 2013, an Albany High School teacher assigned a writing exercise instructing students to argue that Jews are evil. In 2017 in Syracuse, students were instructed to argue for or against the extermination of the Jews. And just recently, Principal Amanda Bueno of I.S. 136, a middle school just outside my district, sent an official email to teachers and staff asking for a strong, public commitment to the current pro-Palestinian activism. The very same activism already playing out in a wave of violent hate against innocent Jews only blocks away on the streets of Borough Park and across New York City.

In 2018, the state Senate passed a bill to improve Holocaust education that is still languishing in the Assembly. Thankfully, last year, Congress signed the Never Again Education Act into law, which provides funding to expand professional development and create a centralized website for teaching resources over the next five years. With so many principals and teachers inadequately prepared for the task, I hope this will prove helpful down the road.



Education must deliver information with the goal that students

grow into ethical decision-makers who prioritize good over evil before taking the next step; who practice empathy because they have been taught to consider multiple perspectives. The ultimate goal of education is to create adults — principals, administrators, teachers, parents — who are thinking, feeling people with the capacity for nuance and thoughtfulness beyond their own experience.

The largest population of Holocaust survivors in the world, may they live and be well, live in my district. I invite Bueno to meet with our Holocaust survivors and join me on a visit to New York City's Holocaust Museum. Holocaust survivors have the ability to dispel doubt and error and speak truth to deception. There is an urgency to turn things around now, while they are still alive. Once they fade into the chapters of history, we will be left to battle the forces of hate alone.



(View the original op-ed in its entirety on my website: www.nysenate.gov/senators/simcha-felder)

OPPOSING BDS

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Senator Simc... · 7/29/21 ...
NYS has been clear and firm in its opposition to the BDS movement for years. I called on [@NYSComptroller](#) Thomas DiNapoli & NYS Attorney General [@TishJames](#) to uphold & enforce [@NYGovCuomo's](#) Executive Order 157. [bit.ly/3BXgfw](#)

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View the letters at www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2021/simcha-felder/fighting-bds

Got kids?

Get Senator Felder's Free Activity Books!



Bicycle Safety



Health & Fitness



Germs, Viruses & Staying Healthy



Fire Safety



Whodya Appreciation for Helping Professionals

To order free activity books for the children in your life, parents, grandparents, teachers and friends can call my office at 718-253-2015 or email felder@nysenate.gov



SENATOR FELDER CARES

...ABOUT A BETTER NYC FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

“I was pleased to celebrate the grand opening of the now fully ADA-accessible Avenue H station. Helping people with disabilities to navigate our City without any further challenges must be a top priority, and it has the added benefit of helping seniors and parents with strollers, too.”



...ABOUT IMPROVING HEALTHCARE

“This collaboration between Maimonides and Community Hospital is worth celebrating. Together, it expands Brooklyn’s network of top quality medical services with all the benefits of a community hospital close to home.”

...ABOUT HELPING PEOPLE

“When people anywhere suffer, we all feel their pain. Working with Boro Park JCC, Assemblyman Eichenstein, and Councilmembers Eugene and Yeger, our district came together to do what we do best and sent a tremendous shipment of essentials to the people of Haiti.”



...ABOUT SENIORS

“Thank you NYS Senator Felder for supporting our elders and backing a \$27 million increase for services to help New Yorkers age in their own homes.”



New York recognizes the caregiving contributions of our state legislators

SMASH!

Enough is Enough

“The unusually low train overpasses that run from Avenue P to Avenue J are a constant source of chaos. The impact on neighborhood residents, commuters and businesses cannot be overstated. The Department of Transportation could easily remedy the problem with any variety of adequate warning signals. In the year ahead, I look forward to working with a new administration to finally implement a long overdue fix.”



Senator Simcha Felder
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Senator Simcha Felder's Free Events and Resources

**FREE
FLU SHOTS**
October 5th,
Tuesday
&
November 9th,
Tuesday
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**FREE
MAMMOGRAMS**
November 3rd,
Wednesday
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**UNCLAIMED
FUNDS**
November 17th,
Wednesday
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

We
disbursed
\$45,000
through
HEARTSHARE
National Grid & ConEd
And returned
\$11,200
through Unclaimed
Funds

Senator Felder's Flatbush Office: 1412 Avenue J, 2nd Floor
By appointment only. Please call 718-253-2015
COVID-19 protocols will be in place.