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THE COUNCIL
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JENNIFER GUTIÉRREZ
COUNCIL MEMBER, 34th DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

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February 28, 2024

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez,

Safe streets are the foundation of a thriving, accessible city. Every New Yorker—whether walking, biking, driving, or using public transit—deserves to move through their community without fear of injury or tragedy. Yet, too often, dangerous street conditions put lives at risk, disproportionately impacting vulnerable populations like seniors, children, and low-income communities. As we work toward a city where no one has to mourn a loved one due to preventable traffic violence, I want to thank you for your leadership in continuing and advancing policies and infrastructure improvements that make our streets safer for all.

At the city level, I worked alongside advocates and my colleagues in government to build the necessary vocal support for Sammy’s Law, recognizing that lowering speed limits is a proven, data-driven approach to saving lives. We mobilized support to ensure this critical legislation could move forward. Now that the law has been enacted, I am eager to see its impact in my district and across New York City.

With DOT’s announcement that each borough will receive its own “Neighborhood Slow Zone,” I respectfully request that the neighborhoods of Greenpoint and Williamsburg, as defined by the boundaries of Brooklyn Community Board 1, be prioritized for consideration. Brooklyn CB1 ranks fifth among Brooklyn community boards in traffic fatalities, with 3.27 fatalities per 10,000 residents—higher than the citywide average of 2.85. It also ranks fifth boroughwide in serious traffic injuries, with 10.3 serious injuries per 10,000 residents—above the citywide average of 9.67. These statistics underscore the urgent need for targeted safety measures in this area.

I appreciate the critical work you and your team do every day to make our streets safer, and I look forward to continuing to work together to advance street safety initiatives. Please let me know if there is any additional information my office can provide to support this request.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Gutiérrez
Council Member, District 34