



June 19, 2015

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

We're writing to thank you for taking a stand to reduce pedestrian injuries with your Vision Zero Initiative. Your advocacy and commitment on this issue is crucial to ensuring we have a livable city. One aspect of pedestrian safety that has received less attention is the shortage of crossing guards, especially in lower Manhattan. The lack of crossing guards puts the safety of New York City's children at risk.

As you may be aware, there has been a shortage of crossing guards in Lower Manhattan for a number of years. Students should not have to fend for themselves, and we are surprised that every school building isn't automatically assigned at least one crossing guard at the most congested or complicated crossing. As you have acknowledged with your Vision Zero Initiative, this City can be a dangerous place for pedestrians, and we hope that you will work with the New York Police Department and Department of Transportation to find a better approach to hiring crossing guards and improving traffic conditions at major intersections surrounding school zones. With the Peck Slip School opening in September we need to make sure that all our schools, including new ones, have the necessary safety personnel in place.

It is our understanding that crossing guards are hired and managed by local precincts, but even when precincts conclude that crossing guards are needed at certain locations, it appears to be exceedingly difficult to get them hired in a timely manner. It seems that the hiring process is a contributing factor in the lack of siting and retention of crossing guards. Furthermore, it seems that even if the funding has been approved, there is no clear timeline between a local police precinct's "request" for crossing guards and the actual hiring and allocation of crossing guards. We would like to work with you to expedite the process for getting them hired and sited.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with your Administration to find ways to ensure the safety of New York's school children are not at risk. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Maryam Abdul-Aleem in Assemblymember Glick's office, 212-674-5153.

Sincerely,



Deborah J. Glick  
Assemblymember



Jerrold Nadler  
Congressman



Daniel Squadron  
Senator



Sheldon Silver  
Assemblymember



Gale Brewer  
Manhattan Borough President



Margaret Chin  
City Councilmember



Catherine McVay Hughes  
Chair, Community Board 1

Cc: Carmen Farina, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education  
Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner, Department of Transportation  
William Bratton, Commissioner, New York City Police Department