



FROM NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER

JESSICA LAPPIN



For Immediate Release

October 28, 2009

Contact: John Moore
(212) 788-6865
(202) 486-0098

Lappin Bill to Promote Traffic Safety

Legislation would increase transparency to help communities partner with police for safer streets

In the United States, 2,500 pedestrians are killed every month after being hit by cars. New York has the highest number of pedestrian and cyclist deaths and injuries anywhere in the country. Being struck by a car while walking is the leading cause of injury-related death for children under 14 in New York City. It is the second leading cause of injury-related death in the city for adults over 45. Despite these grim statistics, the NYPD does not consistently provide communities with information about what is happening on their own streets.

In order to help correct this situation, Council Member Jessica Lappin will introduce legislation at today's Council meeting that would require the NYPD to make certain traffic-related statistics available through its website.

"When we look at reducing the number of traffic fatalities, knowing where the trouble spots are is half the battle," Council Member Lappin said. "We need to arm communities with information so that we can all work together to make our streets safer."

Lappin's bill would provide greater transparency by allowing the public to access key traffic statistics on a precinct-by-precinct basis. The NYPD will be required to post the number and type of moving violations issued, the number of traffic accidents and vehicles involved, the number of traffic fatalities, and the number of traffic fatalities involving drunk drivers.

By equipping neighborhoods with this information, community members will have the tools necessary to work with their local precincts to create the type of strategies and enforcement that makes the most sense in each individual community.

"Our goal has to be zero traffic fatalities on our city's streets," Lappin said. "That's a goal that communities can't accomplish on their own and the police can't accomplish on their own. Only by working together can we make our streets as safe as they can possibly be."

###