



**The Council of the City of New York
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Wednesday, July 3rd, 2019**

For Immediate Release

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Press Release

Council Member Antonio Reynoso, Transportation Alternatives & Safe Streets Advocates Call for Cyclist and Pedestrian Protections and Driver Accountability.

New York, New York— Today, Council Member Antonio Reynoso joined Transportation Alternatives, Families for Safe Streets, community groups, and cyclists for a vigil and call to action in response to a cyclist death that occurred on Monday in Williamsburg.

Devra Freeland was riding on Bushwick Avenue when a cement truck struck and killed her on the corner of Bushwick Avenue and Boerum Street. The death of Ms. Freeland is New York City's [15th traffic-related cyclist death this year](#) and the second to occur within Council Member Reynoso's district.

Council Member Reynoso was joined by members of Transportation Alternatives and Families for Safe Streets, community groups, and cyclists at the sight of Monday's fatality. Those gathered called for Mayor de Blasio and the Department of Transportation to implement more aggressive cyclist and pedestrian safety measures.

In 2014, the de Blasio administration put forward its [Vision Zero Action Plan](#), a blueprint for how to reach zero traffic deaths in New York City. Today, we are far from reaching this goal, and this year's spike in traffic-related deaths tells us that Vision Zero needs work.

In the name of saving lives and making our streets safe and usable for all, Mayor de Blasio and the Department of Transportation must swiftly implement more aggressive pedestrian and cyclist measures, measures like those that are outlined in Transportation Alternatives' report titled [The Vision Zero Street Design Standard](#).

In addition to the City's rethinking Vision Zero, the NYPD must enforce driver accountability and stop ticketing cyclists after incidents occur. Failure to hold reckless drivers accountable and unwarranted penalization of cyclists upholds the false narrative that drivers own the road.

For too long, our streets have posed a danger to the lives of pedestrians and cyclists. It is time for our City to step up and take proactive measures to ensure that our streets are equitable and safe for all—cyclists, pedestrians, and car owners.

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