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April 19, 2018

Hon. Daniel A. Nigro
Commissioner,
New York City Fire Department
9 MetroTech Center,
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Commissioner Nigro,

I am writing to you today to request your assistance in determining the feasibility of implementing smart-roads vehicle-to-vehicle technology in New York City. As you are likely already aware, a number of companies are developing technology to facilitate vehicle-to-vehicle communication, improve the interconnectivity of vehicles and devices on the road, and reduce first responder vehicle collisions, traffic incidents, and gridlock on city streets.

I was recently made aware of a particular effort by HAAS Alert, a startup data-as-a-service company, to install their technology on urban first responder vehicles to achieve a level of interconnectivity of vehicles and devices that would allow them to send notifications to drivers out of visual range of the emergency vehicles and alert them to change lanes or routes to allow the emergency vehicle to pass. Additionally, through integration with mobile mapping and GPS technology, drivers would receive early-warnings about traffic incidents and responses to emergencies on their route which would allow them to make alterations, reducing gridlock and interruptions.

I'm hopeful that a pilot program can be established in New York City, perhaps beginning with FDNY vehicles, which would allow us to study this technology during real-world interactions on city streets and determine its effectiveness in mitigating first responder vehicle collisions, improving emergency response times, and reducing gridlock.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph C. Borelli
Council Member
51st District

CC: Laura Kavanagh, First Deputy Commissioner