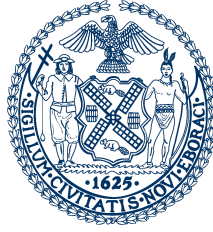


KEITH POWERS

COUNCIL MEMBER, 4TH DISTRICT

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**THE COUNCIL OF THE
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September 16, 2022

Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez
Department of Transportation
55 Water St
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez:

I am writing to you in regards to the pedestrian footbridge that extends over the FDR Drive and connects East 25th Street to Waterside Plaza. Over the last year my office has received complaints from residents that the footbridge is not safe, as it is steep and has uneven surfaces in some areas. My office has been made aware of a few separate instances where folks fell while crossing here due to the lack of appropriate safety infrastructure. The existing footbridge currently does not comply with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, which is a long term issue that I understand is already being discussed. In the interim, I respectfully request that short-term solutions to address these safety concerns are implemented as quickly as possible.

One potential solution would be the installation of a temporary handrail so that pedestrians have something to grab onto when walking up and down the steeper portions of the footbridge. I also request that weatherization strips be installed on the floor of the footbridge to create better traction and prevent folks from slipping and getting hurt. With the winter months quickly approaching, it is paramount these concerns are addressed. With the added issue of snow and sleet accumulation, this footbridge poses serious safety concerns if left unaddressed. Therefore, I respectfully request that the Department of Transportation consider these temporary measures while permanent solutions are developed.

Thank you for your partnership and work on behalf of all New Yorkers. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please reach out to my Community Liaison for this area, Patrick Hill at phill@council.nyc.gov, or call my office directly at 212-818-0580.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith Powers'.

Majority Leader Keith Powers
New York City Council, District 4

Cc: Ed Pincar, Department of Transportation

Waterside Tenants Association
Andrew Kimball, New York City Economic Development Corporation