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THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
SANDRA UNG
COUNCIL MEMBER, 20TH DISTRICT, QUEENS

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LANDMARKS, PUBLIC SITINGS,
AND DISPOSITIONS

December 9th, 2022

Dear Mayor Adams,

We are writing today regarding an issue that is at the top of the minds of thousands of our constituents - the safety of their families.

As you are aware, crime rates are surging across the city. Unfortunately, the 109th Precinct is leading the city in this alarming trend, and statistics show that crime has been consistently increasing month after month.

According to CompStat, crime is up in nearly every category; rapes are up 143 percent, robberies are up 113 percent, burglaries and felony assault are both up approximately 60 percent over the last year. The 109th Precinct has recorded 1,400 grand larcenies this year compared to 828 during all of 2021.

Our community is still reeling from the surge in Anti-Asian hate crimes. Throughout the pandemic, friends and neighbors were afraid to let their parents walk outside. And now they open the papers daily to see a surge in violent crimes concentrated in Flushing. To ensure our city remains on the path towards recovery, and especially with the holiday season around the corner, we must tackle this crime wave head on.

At a recent meeting between Councilmember Ung, Borough President Donovan Richards and Deputy Inspector Hall, DI Hall shared that the 109th Precinct is down 21 officers. If you also take into consideration restricted duty and temporary transfers, the precinct has 42 less officers on patrol.

At 13.5-square miles, the 109th Precinct is one of the largest in the city. Complicating matters is that the precinct comprises several different neighborhoods that all present their own unique policing challenges. The type of policing required in the bustling business district in Downtown Flushing is different from the policing required in largely residential neighborhoods like Whitestone, making the allocation of the precinct's diminished resources even more complicated.

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We and our constituents are thankful and appreciative that eight probationary officers that are part of a field training unit were recently assigned to foot patrol in downtown Flushing. They are already a welcome presence in our commercial district, where small business owners are feeling the economic effects of the uptick in burglaries and residents worry about their safety as they walk down the street. But more can and needs to be done.

We need to address the shortage of full-time police officers at the 109th Precinct. Recently, the Department of Justice announced nearly \$140 million in additional funding for law enforcement hirings to help advance community policing. Out of this total fund, New York City's Policy Department received over \$8 million, thanks to the work of our State's senior member of the House Appropriations Committee.

You recently welcomed 617 new officers to the ranks of the New York Police Department. We respectfully request that you direct NYPD Commissioner Sewell to give serious consideration to assigning some of them to the 109th Precinct and begin refilling its depleted ranks.

Moreover, Christmas, Hanukkah and Lunar New Year are around the corner, and we are in dire need of an increased police presence during these periods. Flushing continues to be a cash economy and a major commercial corridor, which means that the Lunar New Year period is likely to see an increase in thefts targeting the 109th Precinct. The NYPD should send a special taskforce to support the 109 at least through the end of Lunar New Year.

As a former member of the NYPD, I know that you take public safety very seriously. We are currently experiencing a public safety crisis here in the 109th Precinct and look forward to working closely with you to end this crisis.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Ung". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Councilwoman Sandra Ung, District 20

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A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donovan Richards".

Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Grace Meng".

Grace Meng
Congresswoman, NY-6

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Liu".

John Liu
State Senator, District 11

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Toby A. Stavisky".

Toby Stavisky
State Senator, District 16

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nily Rozic".

Nily Rozic
State Assemblymember, District 25

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ed Braunstein".

Ed Braunstein
State Assemblymember, District 26