



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELEN ROSENTHAL
COUNCIL MEMBER
6TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

March 25, 2015

Margaret Forgione
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street 9th fl
New York, NY 10041

Dear Margaret Forgione,

Thank you for speaking with me today by phone regarding the intersection of 77th street and Columbus Avenue. As you are aware, there are four elementary/middle schools between the O'Shea Complex and PS 87 housed on the blocks of 77-78th streets between Columbus and Amsterdam Ave. While there are crossing guards posted on Amsterdam Avenue, there are none so far for Columbus Avenue. We are working with the city to increase the number of crossing guards and have been given assurances that the location is a priority for a crossing guard placement. However, we believe greater and more immediate action is needed to create a safer situation for the hundreds of students that use that intersection every school day.

There have already been two instances of students being hit and injured by cars at this intersection (south/north on the west side) and countless 'close calls' that are witnessed each week. The very large number of students, crowds waiting on the sidewalk at the popular ShakeShack restaurant (NW corner), cars/buses traveling to and from the Museum across the street and the awkward configuration of a street that becomes one-way from two-way all lead to an unpredictable and dangerous corner.

As we discussed, I would like to specifically request that there be changes to the traffic signals at this intersection so that pedestrians and cars are not traveling at the same time. I believe that this particular location warrants this treatment. This change would have a significant benefit for the hundreds of students and families that cross that street every school day as well as the thousands of museum visitors that use that area.

Thank you so much for speaking with me and for your prompt attention to this important safety issue.

Sincerely,

Helen Rosenthal

cc:

Elizabeth Caputo; Chair, Community Board 7

Andrew Albert; Co-Chair, CB 7 Transportation Committee

Dan Zweig; Co-Chair, CB 7 Transportation Committee

Eric Shuffler; Co-Chair, CB 7 Youth, Education & Libraries Committee

Blanche Lawton; Co-Chair, CB 7 Youth, Education & Libraries Committee

Henry Zymeck; Principal, MS 245

Scott Parker; Principal, PS 452

Jodi Hyde; Principal, PS/MS 334

Monica Berry; Principal, PS 87