March 5, 2013

Commissioner Ray Kelly
New York Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner Kelly:

I am writing regarding the tragic accident that took place in my district on Thursday, February 28, 2013, which resulted in the death of a 6-year-old boy named Amar Diarrassouba. I would first like to thank the 25th Precinct for their swift response to the accident and for keeping my office updated with the latest information.

One of the key contributing factors to this tragedy that has been investigated by the NYPD was the absence of the crossing guard from her post at that moment. This incident has brought to light a number of questions and concerns related to the numbers of crossing guards assigned to streets in my community.

I would appreciate if you could provide my office with the following information:

- a list of locations where there are currently crossing guards assigned in the 23rd and 25th Precincts;
- how many are assigned to each location; and
- whether there are any locations identified by the NYPD as in need of crossing guards where a guard has not been placed.

I also respectfully request information with regards to the criteria that are used to identify crossing guard locations and the number of guards that are assigned to each of those locations. For example, does the Department of Transportation provide data on traffic conditions to inform these determinations? Clearly, expanded coordination between DOT and NYPD can only help improve the safety of our streets for children and all residents of our communities.

I am also concerned that we may be in need of a greater level of traffic enforcement directed at trucks driving through the El Barrio/East Harlem community. It is my
understanding that a truck this size is not even permitted to drive on our city’s local truck routes, much less a non-designated street like East 117th Street. To understand the level of traffic enforcement directed at trucks in the community, I ask that you forward my office the numbers of tickets issued annually to trucks in the 23rd and 25th Precincts since 2009, the year before East River Plaza opened. I would ask that the data be broken down by category of offense (e.g. speeding, driving outside a truck route, etc.).

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Melissa Mark-Viverito
Council Member, District 8