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Stephen Miller
Streetsblog.org
148 Lafayette Street, 12
New York, NY 10013

Dear Mr. Miller,

I am writing in response to your July 10 article, "Will CB 9 Take Its Cues From a Denny Farrell Rant Against a Safer Broadway?" about a Community Board 9 meeting held Thursday, July 9.

First, I will concede that I may have been wrong or misspoken about the relative safety of Florida's roads and highways and their success in reducing pedestrian injuries and fatalities. I will admit that I have never taken the time to study Florida's safety statistics in any great detail. But I have been there, and seen how Florida traffic is routed to left- and right-turn lanes that allow traffic to flow while, apparently, protecting pedestrians.

However, in reading your article, it seems that you may have misheard my "rant" during the meeting, as I certainly do not recall making several of the statements you attributed to me.

And I must challenge your mocking tone in reporting my statement that bicycles are dangerous. Your article omitted my statements about bicycles being silent, and my complaints that bicycles should continually make a warning noise to alert pedestrians when a bicyclist is approaching.

In case you are not aware, less than four hours before July 9's CB9 meeting, a pedestrian was seriously injured by a bicyclist during an incident on First Avenue near West 87th Street.

This did not occur in my District, so I am not fully conversant in all the details, but according to the account published by DNAinfo.com, this senior citizen was crossing the bicycle lane (similar to my "ranting" description) on her way to her car when she was struck and knocked to the pavement by a bicyclist who fled the scene. According to DNAinfo, the pedestrian is in critical condition and the New York Police Department is asking for the public's help in identifying and locating the bicyclist.

As you may or may not know, I am a grandfather, and the father of a 10-year-old with whom I often walk the streets of New York, so I am concerned with her safety, my own, and the safety of everyone else whether they are traveling on foot or on wheels.

Yours truly,

Herman D. Farrell, Jr.
Member of Assembly