



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Commissioner Janette Sadik-Kahn
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

January 24, 2013

Dear Commissioner Sadik-Khan,

We are writing to express our concerns about the Department of Transportation's compliance with Local Law 12 of 2011, also known as the "TrafficStat Law." The purpose of this law is to provide the public with key traffic accident data, and to help identify and improve New York City's most dangerous intersections. This law broadened many requirements that have existed since 2008.

New York City Administrative Code Section 19-180 requires the DOT to submit a report on pedestrian injuries and fatalities after receiving the data from New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the previous calendar year.

The report must rank the twenty highest crash locations in each borough based on the number of pedestrians killed or injured. The DOT is then required to audit identified locations, issue recommendations for improvements within 30 days, and then make necessary repairs.

In addition, Section 19-181 requires the DOT to inspect intersections where a fatality occurs within 90 days of the accident, as well as any location where there has been four or more serious injuries or fatalities in the previous 5 years. The DOT is required to make a report on the inspection available to the public.

Although the DOT has been legally required to provide the information noted above to Council Members and Community Boards since June 2011, to our understanding it has yet to do so. The Council has requested copies of traffic safety reports in recent months without success.

Identifying our city's most dangerous streets is the first step towards making them safer. The audits required by the TrafficStat law can help save lives. We request that the DOT fully comply with Local Law 12, and make pedestrian safety reports available as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James Vacca in black ink.

Council Member James Vacca, Chair Transportation
13th Council District-Bronx

Handwritten signature of Jessica Lappin in black ink.

Council Member Jessica Lappin
5th Council District-Manhattan