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COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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July 1, 2013

Hon. Charles B. Rangel
13th Congressional District
United States House of Representatives
163 West 125th Street, Suite 737
New York, NY 10027

Dear Congressman Rangel:

On the morning of February 28, 2013, our community was the site of a tragic traffic accident which resulted in the death of six-year old Amar Diarrassouba as he crossed the intersection of First Avenue and 117th Street on his way to school. Although the area surrounding the site of this accident is largely residential, it is also bound by three major commercial truck routes and the East River Plaza shopping mall, each of which bring substantial truck traffic to this densely populated area.

Since the accident, Community Board 11 has worked with the New York City Department of Transportation to identify factors that may have contributed to this tragic accident and solutions that could help prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future. One such solution would be the expansion of a 2011 New York State law which requires the use of "crossover" mirrors by all trucks, tractors and tractor-trailers or semi-trailer combinations operating within cities having a population of one million or more (see attached). The use of convex "crossover" mirrors permits a truck operator to see any person passing at least one foot in front of their vehicle by eliminating a potentially dangerous "blind spot" for the operator. However the law is only applicable to vehicles registered in New York State and does not extend to the many out of state trucks that operate throughout New York City and within residential communities such as East Harlem.

As such, Community Board 11 requests that you introduce and work to pass federal legislation that mirrors the New York State law and extends to all large commercial vehicles nationwide. It is our hope that through such national regulation, future tragic accidents can be prevented.

Enclosure (1)

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Washington
Chairman
Community Board 11

cc: Hon. Charles E. Schumer, United States Senate
Hon. Kristen Gillibrand, United States Senate
Hon. Carolyn B. Maloney, United States Congress
Hon. Jerrold Nadler, United States Congress
Hon. Michael Grimm, United States Congress
Hon. Gregory W. Meeks, United States Congress
Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, United States Congress
Hon. Yvette D. Clarke, United States Congress
Hon. Nydia M. Velasquez, United States Congress
Hon. Grace Meng, United States Congress
Hon. Joseph Crowley, United States Congress
Hon. Jose E. Serrano, United States Congress
Hon. Eliot L. Engel, United States Congress
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)
Hon. Inez E. Dickens, New York City Council (via email)
Hon. Bill Perkins, New York State Senate (via email)
Hon. Martin J. Golden, New York State Senate
Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)
Hon. Keith L.T. Wright, New York State Assembly (via email)
Joan L. Millman, New York State Assembly
Anthony Foxx, United States Department of Transportation
Joan McDonald, NYS Department of Transportation
Janette Sadik-Khan, NYC Department of Transportation
Margaret Forgiione, NYC Department of Transportation (via email)
Peggy Morales, Community Board 11 (via email)

S T A T E O F N E W Y O R K

3151

2011-2012 Regular Sessions

I N S E N A T E

February 10, 2011

Introduced by Sen. GOLDEN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to convex mirrors

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. Section 375 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by
2 adding a new subdivision 10-e to read as follows:
3 10-E. EVERY TRUCK, TRACTOR, AND TRACTOR-TRAILER OR SEMITRAILER COMBI-
4 NATION REGISTERED IN THIS STATE HAVING A GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT RATING OF
5 TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND POUNDS OR MORE, AND A CONVENTIONAL CAB CONFIGURATION
6 IN WHICH MORE THAN HALF OF THE ENGINE LENGTH IS FORWARD OF THE FOREMOST
7 POINT OF THE WINDSHIELD BASE AND THE STEERING WHEEL HUB IS IN THE
8 FORWARD QUARTER OF THE VEHICLE LENGTH, WHENEVER OPERATED WITHIN A CITY
9 HAVING A POPULATION OF ONE MILLION OR MORE ON HIGHWAYS OTHER THAN
10 CONTROLLED-ACCESS HIGHWAYS, SHALL BE EQUIPPED WITH A CONVEX MIRROR ON
11 THE FRONT OF SUCH VEHICLE OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES. WHEN SUCH VEHICLE
12 OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES IS BEING OPERATED, SUCH MIRROR SHALL BE
13 ADJUSTED SO AS TO ENABLE THE OPERATOR THEREOF TO SEE ALL POINTS ON AN
14 IMAGINARY HORIZONTAL LINE WHICH: (A) IS THREE FEET ABOVE THE ROAD, (B)
15 IS ONE FOOT DIRECTLY FORWARD FROM THE MIDPOINT OF THE FRONT OF SUCH
16 MOTOR VEHICLE, AND (C) EXTENDS THE FULL WIDTH OF THE FRONT OF SUCH VEHI-
17 CLE OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THE COMMISSIONER, IN
18 CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION, MAY PROMULGATE
19 RULES AND REGULATIONS EXEMPTING FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBDIVI-
20 SION ANY VEHICLE OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES WHERE SUCH COMMISSIONER HAS
21 DETERMINED THAT THE USE OF SUCH CONVEX MIRRORS WOULD NOT INCREASE THE
22 VISIBILITY OF PERSONS OR OBJECTS LOCATED DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF SUCH VEHI-
23 CLE OR COMBINATION OF VEHICLES.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [] is old law to be omitted.

LBD04922-01-1

S. 3151

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1 S 2. This act shall be deemed repealed if any federal agency or any
2 court of competent jurisdiction finally determines that this act would
3 render New York state ineligible for the receipt of federal funds.

4 S 3. Severability. If any clause, sentence, subdivision, paragraph,
5 section or part of this act be adjudged by any court of competent juris-
6 diction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invali-
7 date the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to
8 the clause, sentence, subdivision, paragraph, section or part thereof
9 directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have
10 been rendered.

11 S 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after
12 it shall have become a law; provided, however, that effective immediate-
13 ly, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation
14 necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date is
15 authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date;
16 and provided that the commissioner of the department of transportation
17 shall notify the legislative bill drafting commission upon the occur-
18 rence of the provisions of section two of this act in order that the
19 commission may maintain an accurate data base of the official text of
20 the laws of the state of New York in furtherance of effecting the
21 provisions of section 44 of the legislative law and section 70-b of the
22 public officers law.



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 8, 2013

Matthew S. Washington
Chairman
Community Board 11
1664 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10035

Dear Mr. Washington,

Thank you for sending me your suggestion to introduce Federal legislation for the traffic law to enforce the usage of "crossover" mirrors. Your suggestion is timely and significant and deserves great consideration. I am pleased to know that Community Board 11 is concerned and involved in preventing tragic traffic accidents from occurring in the future.

The traffic law that requires drivers to use "crossover" mirrors will help save the lives of many people by avoiding devastating accidents. Having every driver of a truck, tractor, tractor-trailer and/or semi-trailer use a "crossover" mirror is imperative because it allows them to eliminate a potentially dangerous "blind spot". The "crossover" mirrors are a way to ensure safety in densely populated areas for both drivers and pedestrians. Many people will be impacted by the work done by Community Board 11 in striving towards making New York a more secure place. I applaud your diligence in this matter.

Thanks again for sending me your suggestion. To keep up with my work in Washington, D.C. and in the District, visit my website, <http://rangel.house.gov>, follow me on Twitter at @CBRangel or visit my Facebook page at facebook.com/CBRangel. Please know that you can continue to count on my strong support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Rangel", written over a circular stamp.

Charles B. Rangel
Member of Congress

CBR/vls