November 26, 2013

Janette Sadik-Khan
Commissioner
NYC Dept. of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Resolution Re: The Proposed NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Traffic Safety Measures on Morningside Avenue and Hancock Place

Commissioner Sadik-Khan:

At its regularly scheduled General Board meeting held on Thursday, November 21, 2013 Community Board No. 9 Manhattan approved the following resolution re: The Proposed NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) Traffic Safety Measures on Morningside Avenue and Hancock Place by a vote of 23 in favor, 4 opposed, and 1 abstentions.

Whereas, DOT data shows that there were 102 injuries along Morningside Avenue between West 116th and West 126th Streets in the five year period between 2007 and 2011 putting it near the top 33% of the most dangerous traffic corridors in Manhattan which in turn has a higher accident rate than other boroughs; and

Whereas, this corridor is crossed on foot by a high volume of local school children and the elderly due to the high concentration of schools and churches in the area and the highly popular renovated playgrounds in adjacent Morningside Park; and

Whereas, local residents, schools, local New York City Police Department Precincts and neighborhood groups have been on record since 2006 asking DOT to implement safety improvements along this corridor; and

Whereas, Kipp Star College Prep Charter School (at 433 West 123rd Street) is a DOT Priority School based on the number of traffic accidents in its immediate vicinity, and; Whereas DOT’s proposal as presented to the Transportation and Uniformed Services Committee of CB9 on September 5, 2013 has been vetted and approved by the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) and;
Whereas, on October 23, 2013 Manhattan Community Board 9 (MCB9) and Manhattan Community Board 10 (MCB10) held a public hearing on these proposed changes which yielded the following recommendations:
I. increased lighting on the Morningside Park side of Morningside Avenue
II. additional safety measures for pedestrians crossing at 124th Street
III. increased traffic enforcement, the addition of speed bumps, and changes in light timing to reduce speeding along Morningside Avenue; and

Whereas, DOT has agreed to study these recommendations before proceeding; now

Therefore be it resolved that MCB9 supports DOT’s proposed changes and urges our elected officials to work toward their swift implementation.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or District Manager, Eutha Prince at (212) 864-6200

Sincerely,

Rev. Georgiette Morgan-Thomas
Chair

cc: Ms. Margaret Forgione, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Transportation
    Hon. Michael Bloomberg, Mayor
    Hon. Bill DeBlasio, Mayor Elect
    Hon. Charles Rangel, Congressman
    Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
    Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President Elect
    Hon. Bill Perkins, State Senator
    Hon. Adriano Espaillat, State Senator
    Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, State Senator
    Hon. Keith Wright, Assemblymember
    Hon. Daniel O’Donnell, Assemblymember
    Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assemblymember
    Hon. Inez Dickens, City Councilmember
    Hon. Mark Levine, City Councilmember Elect
    Hon. Robert Jackson, City Councilmember