

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
410 ATLANTIC AVENUE  
(718) 875-5200  
FAX: (718) 643-6620

**CITY HALL OFFICE**  
250 BROADWAY, RM 1735  
NEW YORK, NY 10007  
(212) 788-7348  
FAX: (212) 788-9758

slevin@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

**STEPHEN T. LEVIN**

COUNCIL MEMBER, 33<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT, BROOKLYN

**CHAIR**  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PLANNING  
DISPOSITIONS AND CONCESSIONS

**COMMITTEES**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
EDUCATION  
ENVIORNMENTAL PROTECTION  
GENERAL WELFARE  
LAND USE  
LOWER MANHATTAN REDEVELOPMENT

January 6, 2014

Commissioner Polly Trottenberg  
Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street, 9th Floor  
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Trottenberg,

First, I want to congratulate you on your appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation. Your record speaks for itself - as does Mayor de Blasio's commitment to Vision Zero - and I look forward to working with you to make the streets of Greenpoint and the rest of New York City safer and friendlier to all New Yorkers.

I am writing to express the serious concerns that I and the entire community of Greenpoint have regarding the safety of McGuinness Boulevard. For years, McGuinness Boulevard has been one of the most dangerous streets in Brooklyn. Last week, a crash at the corner of McGuinness Boulevard and Nassau Avenue was a tragic reminder of how dangerous this roadway has become for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike. I respectfully request that the Department of Transportation implement traffic calming measures to make McGuinness Boulevard safer before another tragedy occurs in our community.

As you know, the speed limit on McGuinness Boulevard is 30 miles per hour, but as found in a 2012 study by the Transportation Alternatives McGuinness Boulevard Working Group, 66.25% of all motorists exceed the speed limit while driving on this street. The combination of rampant speeding and pedestrian crossings is a recipe for danger, and just last week our community was dealt a tragic blow when a pedestrian was fatally struck while crossing the street.

As outlined in the recommendations of the Transportation Alternatives McGuinness Boulevard Working Group report from 2012, there are a number of measures that can be taken to increase safety along McGuinness Boulevard, including the installation of speed cameras. Speed cameras from the recently approved pilot program should be installed at

PS 34, which is just off of McGuinness Boulevard, and would reduce speeds and increase safety. I also request the implementation of a neighborhood slow zone in the area surrounding PS 34, left-hand turn signals, countdown clocks at crosswalks, and other traffic calming elements that will help prevent future crashes.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you on behalf of the Greenpoint community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen T. Levin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'L'.

Stephen T. Levin  
Councilmember, 33<sup>rd</sup> District