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THE COUNCIL OF
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MARK D. LEVINE

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August 29, 2014

Margaret Forgione
Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Transportation
55 Water Street, 9th Floor
New York, NY 10041

Dear Commissioner Forgione:

I write regarding concerns of pedestrian safety on Amsterdam between 115th and 116th Streets. In the past two weeks alone, there have been two near-fatal incidents on this block.

Morningside Heights is a thriving community with vibrant pedestrian life along Amsterdam Avenue. The street features a large number of retail establishments and is frequented by Columbia students as well as local residents who primarily get around the neighborhood on foot. Prevalent speeding and poor street lighting at night have created extremely unsafe conditions for pedestrians. Lawrence Humphrey, a public safety officer at Columbia, was hit by a car on August 10th and ended up in Luke's Hospital in critical condition. In similar fashion, a car struck a pedestrian at night on August 27th. This gruesome incident currently threatens the victim's life.

In light of these concerns, I strongly urge that you study immediate street improvements. Similar to the recently implemented measures on nearby Morningside Avenue from 116th to 126th Streets, I hope that you will consider improvements such as: adjusted timing and sequencing of traffic lights, improved street lighting, and physical changes like a median island and bulb-outs on the sidewalk.

Thank you for considering this request. I look forward to working with you to achieve our collective goal of improving the safety of our streets. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Sabine Franklin in my office at 212-928-6814 or at sfranklin@council.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Levine".

Mark Levine
Council Member, 7th District