May 6, 2016

The Honorable Carl Heastie  
Speaker of the New York State Assembly  
LOB 932  
Albany, New York  12248

The Honorable David Gantt  
Chairperson of the New York State Assembly Transportation Committee  
LOB 830  
Albany, New York  12248

The Honorable Deborah Glick  
New York State Assembly Member  
LOB 717  
Albany, New York  12248

Re: A9861 (Glick) - The Every School Speed Safety Camera Act

Dear Speaker Heastie and Assembly Members Gantt and Glick:

I write to join a growing coalition of elected officials, community groups, health providers, schools, PTA’s and other organizations in supporting A9861 which would expand New York City’s very successful automated speed camera pilot program. The existing program is limited to just 140 camera locations near schools leaving hundreds of schools and over 1 million schoolchildren unprotected. The proposed legislation would authorize placement of speed safety cameras in all school zones in New York City and would authorize the operation of these cameras at all times. Our experience with the existing automated speed camera program has demonstrated that school zone speed camera enforcement is effective in slowing drivers down and protecting children and pedestrians from harm.

New York State wisely decided in 2013 to test the efficacy of automated school zone speed camera program by beginning with a very limited program of 20 school zones only during school hours and for a short period before and after when children were arriving and being dismissed. That authorization was subsequently increased to the current limit of 140 camera locations. The results have been impressive. According to the Department of Transportation, speeding violations have
declined by 60% at school zone locations with cameras. That translates into greater safety for our children and local residents.

But what about the 93% of New York City schools not covered by this program? It is time to extend to them the protections of an automated school zone speed camera program. As the District Attorney of Queens County, I see the tragic results of speeding related injuries and deaths every day. Speeding is a leading cause of injury-related death for children in my county and throughout New York. Getting drivers to slow down will reduce these injuries and deaths.

I urge you to take action during this session to extend the protection of New York City’s automated school zone speed camera program to all of New York City’s children.

Yours very truly,

Richard A. Brown
District Attorney