May 6, 2016

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

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

The Honorable Deborah J. Glick
New York State Assembly Member
LOB 717
Albany, NY 11248

Re: A. 9861(Glick)—The Every School Speed Safety Camera Act

Dear Speaker Heastie, Assembly Members Gantt and Glick:

I write to express my support for A. 9861—The Every School Speed Safety Camera Act, and the expanded use of speed safety cameras in New York City school zones. As Brooklyn’s chief law enforcement officer, I am committed to protecting pedestrians and holding drivers accountable for injuries caused by their reckless driving. The increased presence of speed cameras in our neighborhoods is a necessary tool in helping keep Brooklyn students and pedestrians safe.

Motor vehicle injury is the leading cause of injury death for school-age children across the country. Brooklyn children between the ages of 5 and 14 are more likely to be harmed or killed by a motor vehicle than in any other borough in New York City, according to the New York City Department of Health.

At present, there are 140 school zones protected by speed cameras. These protected zones have seen a 60% decrease in speeding violations. Expanding the use of speed cameras to all school zones will ensure that we are equipped with every tool available to keep our community safe.

I urge you to pass The Every School Speed Safety Camera Act this legislative session to reinforce our obligation to keep everyone in New York City protected from reckless drivers.

Sincerely,

Kenneth P. Thompson
Brooklyn District Attorney