April 27, 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 12248

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

Dear Assembly Members Heastie, Gantt, and Glick:

I write to express my support for A. 9861 – The Every School Speed Safety Camera Act, which authorizes the placement of speed safety cameras in all school zones across New York City, and the operation of these cameras at all times. My top priority as a prosecutor is public safety, and the effectiveness of school zone speed cameras in protecting New York City children and pedestrians is undeniable. Speed cameras have proven to be an inexpensive way to slow down drivers and save lives.

Traffic-related crashes are the leading cause of injury death for New York City children, according to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Furthermore, one in every four people killed in a car crash is killed by a speeding motorist, according to the State Department of Motor Vehicles. In 2013, New York’s lawmakers allowed the City to operate speed safety cameras at 20 school zones when class is in session, plus a short period of time before and after. The following year, the demonstration program was expanded to 140 school zones. Since then, speeding incidents have declined 60 percent at school zone locations with cameras, according to the Department of Transportation.
All of our city's children deserve our strongest protection, and at all hours of the day. That's why this successful program should be expanded to include all school zones in the City and allow the cameras to operate every day, all day. I ask our state lawmakers to strengthen our ability to protect our school children, reduce the number of crashes, and encourage responsible driving. I strongly urge you to pass the Every School Speed Safety Camera Act without delay.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cyrus R. Vance, Jr.