



COMMUNITY EDUCATION COUNCIL DISTRICT 30

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Resolution 183

In Support of Improving Street Safety Measures

WHEREAS, more than half of the children killed in the last two years to traffic violence in New York City were killed in Queensⁱ, including three children who either attended District 30 Schools or lived in the District 30 area and were walking with their parents, 7-year-old Dolma Naadhun, 5-year-old Jonathan Martinez, and most recently 8-year-old Bayron Palomino Arroyo on March 13, 2024; and

WHEREAS, since the launch of Vision Zero in 2014, there have been 750 people, including 34 children killed in Queens as of March 13, 2024ⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, many of these collisions have happened on crosswalks, and many child fatalities have happened near school buildingsⁱⁱⁱ; and

WHEREAS, many schools do not have enough crossing guards that are properly trained and supervised, and openings in these essential positions still exist but are not being filled due to budget cuts which have eliminated approximately 500 crossing guard positions^{iv}; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2024, at the Queens Children's March for Street Safety, many families, school staff, community members, and elected officials, including those that represent the District 30 area, including State Senator Jessica Ramos, State Assembly Member Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, State Assembly Member Catalina Cruz, State Assembly Member Steven Raga, and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards spoke about their support for the following street safety measures^v:

- Calling on the State Legislature to pass Sammy's Law, a law that will give New York City the power to set its own speed limits tailored to each neighborhoods' actual safety needs and gives New York City the power to lower and enforce speed limits to below 25 mph;
- Organizing to pass legislature to install Scramble Crosswalks outside of every New York City public school as they create a four-way stop for all vehicles, allowing pedestrians to cross safely in any direction; and
- Demanding that the Adams administration fully restore the funding for the nearly 500 crossing guard positions cut from the FY 2024 New York City Budget; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2024, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards also sent a letter to the New York City Department of Transportation supporting universal daylighting at intersections across Queens by implementing universal daylighting with hardened materials such as boulders, planters, and bike corrals to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Community Education Council District 30 urges elected leaders at the state and city levels to pass legislation to ensure funding is made available to implement the street safety measures named within this resolution, including:

- the passage of Sammy’s Law;
- installing Scramble Crosswalks and speed cameras in school zones;
- restoring the cut crossing guard positions;
- installing proper signage for any new street safety measure installations;
- improving driver visibility by increasing and maintaining proper lighting on streets; and
- bringing universal daylighting to crosswalks in Queens to improve street safety for the pedestrians of New York City, including the children of District 30.

Approved: April 8, 2024

ⁱ <https://transalt.org/press-releases/state-senator-ramos-transportation-alternatives-statements-after-traffic-violence-kills-8-year-old-bayron-palomino-arroyo-in-east-elmhurst-queens>

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://nyc.streetsblog.org/2022/05/24/danger-zones-chaotic-school-streets-threaten-city-children>

^{iv} <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/new-york-playbook-pm/2023/06/05/nycs-crossing-guard-fight-00100260>

^v <https://queenseagle.com/all/2024/3/25/this-has-to-stop-queens-pols-and-families-call-for-street-safety-measures-after-recent-traffic-deaths>