



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Michael Gianaris

## Senator Michael Gianaris, Joined By Councilman Van Bramer, Calls on DOT to Improve Traffic Safety in Dutch Kills

MICHAEL GIANARIS July 29, 2013

| ISSUE: **TRANSPORTATION**



(Dutch Kills, NY) Senator Michael Gianaris, joined by City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer, rallied local residents and community leaders at a particularly dangerous Dutch Kills intersection in Long Island City to demand traffic safety improvements for the area. Residents of Dutch Kills had grown concerned over increasingly unsafe traffic conditions in their neighborhood, citing a need for traffic control infrastructure and for enforcement of existing traffic laws. In a letter to the Department of Transportation, Senator Gianaris urged

the DOT to take immediate action.

"As Dutch Kills grows with the rest of western Queens, the city must ensure that its priority remains the safety of neighborhood residents," **said Senator Gianaris**. "Too many accidents have occurred due to traffic planning that has not kept up with increased strains on our infrastructure. Immediate action needs to be taken to make our streets safer."

Local residents have observed and documented numerous car accidents in recent weeks that may have been prevented by simple traffic safety improvements like additional Stop Signs or curb extensions and stronger enforcement of existing traffic laws. Luckily, none of these accidents – one of which happened just yesterday – have resulted in a serious injury. However, Senator Gianaris believes that the area must be made safer before a serious injury occurs, not after.

"It is imperative that we alleviate issues with traffic congestion in Dutch Kills and implement additional safety measures for the residents and families of the neighborhood," **said Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer**. "My office has been successful in securing additional resources to improve safety for the hundreds of students who walk to and from school throughout the year. We have also helped address issues with vehicles that have presented hazards to pedestrians blocking sidewalks and putting pedestrians lives at risk. I urge the Department of Transportation to hear our concerns and develop solutions that will ensure the safety of the thousands of pedestrians, motorists and cyclists who travel within this neighborhood every single day."

Dutch Kills residents began circulating the attached petition calling for specific traffic safety improvements and better enforcement of traffic laws in order to restore a sense of safety to pedestrians in their neighborhood. Senator Gianaris signed the petition and vowed to continue working with local residents to keep their streets safe.

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