

STATEMENT OF

**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER SUSAN PETITO
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

Good morning Chairman Vallone and members of the Council. I am Susan Petito, Assistant Commissioner, Intergovernmental Affairs for the New York City Police Department. On behalf of Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly, I am pleased to express the strong support of the Police Department for the bill before you, Intro. 721-A, which would prohibit climbing, jumping or suspending oneself from structures over 50 feet high in New York City.

As we have discussed, the bill is intended to make it absolutely clear that BASE jumping and other dangerous stunts are illegal, and subject the offender to substantial criminal penalties. We have worked together to harmonize the legislation with already-existing provisions in the Administrative Code that address similar conduct, and have amended the language to cover the wide variety of activities which subject the offender, the bystanders below, and emergency responders to serious danger.

We would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Council for initiating this legislation, and we look forward to enactment of the bill, with the strong hope that the clarity it offers and the penalties it imposes will deter the kind of reckless and irresponsible behavior that inspired its introduction.

Thank you very much.