

UNIFORMED
FIRE DEPARTMENT, CITY OF NEW YORK
FIRE OFFICERS
LOCAL 854, INTERNATIONAL ASSN. OF FIREFIGHTERS, AFL-CIO
ASSOCIATION

225 BROADWAY * NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007 * SUITE 401
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TESTIMONY BY CAPTAIN ALEXANDER HAGAN, PRESIDENT
UNIFORMED FIRE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

JUNE 12, 2013

Good Morning, my name is Edward Boles, and I'm a Lieutenant in the New York City Fire Department and I'm speaking on behalf of our President Alexander Hagan. I also serve as the Treasurer and City Council Legislative Chair of the Uniformed Fire Officers Association, a union of over 2,500 lieutenants, captains, battalion chiefs, deputy chiefs, supervising fire marshals and medical officers of the FDNY.

I appreciate the continuing efforts of Speaker Quinn, Committee Chair Foster, and the entire committee for your consideration of a Home Rule Message for a Training Bill that will provide necessary training of Fire Officers in Building Inspections. In May of 2012, your committee and the entire City Council provided a Home Rule Message on this bill and we hope that due to the increasing complexities of the buildings in New York City, the current revisions to the 2008 Building and Fire Codes, and the increasing accountability of our Fire Officers who are conducting even more building inspections, that you provide a Home Rule for this Bill once again.

Last year, this bill was passed in the State Senate and the Assembly and sent to the Governor. The City administration told the Governor it had no money to fund this bill. As you well know, the administration and the Independent Budget Office agree there will be a \$2.1 billion dollar surplus in FY 2013. I want to read into this record the Governor's feelings that there is merit to the Training Bill and he closed his Veto Message with these words:

"I believe more training is appropriate, but I will not dictate to the City the extent to which it should instruct its Fire Officers in such matters. I hope the City and its unions will cooperate and reach agreement that ensure that its Fire Officers receive the necessary training. If they do not, I am prepared to consider future legislation on this subject," the Governor said.

Three meetings with the Mayor's office were cancelled by City Hall. When we did have a meeting with the Deputy Mayor, he seemed interested in our proposal and said they would get back to us. They have not.

————— AFFILIATED WITH —————



NEW YORK STATE AFL-CIO
NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO * MARITIME PORT COUNCIL OF
GREATER NEW YORK & VICINITY * UNION LABEL & SERVICE TRADES COUNCIL OF
GREATER NEW YORK & LONG ISLAND * NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

The New York City Fire Department has been conducting fire inspections for nearly fifty years without formally training their Fire Officers on how to conduct proper inspections. Fire inspections done by the FDNY were never really meant to enforce the law or adequately protect the public. In fact, I have 20 years in fire service and I have never been formally trained on how to inspect buildings or even write a summons.

That was the way it was for 50 years until the infamous fire in August 2007 at the Deutsche Bank building. The tragic fire at 130 Liberty Street, next to the site where we experienced our worst day in the history of the FDNY, saw two of our brother Firefighters – Robert Beddia and Joseph Graffagnino – succumb to a horrific fire where 115 more Firefighters were injured and could have been killed. In fact, if it were not for the heroic efforts of many of our Fire Officers and Firefighters and the personal ropes used by many of our members to escape this death trap by rappelling to the exterior scaffolds, many more would have died.

Since then, the City of New York and the Fire Department have been holding our members more accountable in additional fire inspection duties, and we are requesting a Home Rule message on a Training Bill that will provide our members with a minimum of 80 hours of fire and building inspection training. This is a modest request, especially since Firefighters and Fire Officers in the rest of New York State require 180 hours of training and New York City civilian fire inspectors who conduct audits of the inspections done by our FDNY units have well over 200 hours of training. We realize a few steps have been made by the Department to increase the training for our members in Building Inspections, but it falls far short of the training needed to adequately inspect New York City buildings.

A great deal of time, money and effort was used to revamp the New York City Fire and Building Codes, which were implemented in July 2008 and are currently being reviewed. Five years later we are still following our orders to inspect thousands of buildings in New York City with no meaningful training to do the job properly.

The UFOA strongly encourages this committee to vote in favor of this Home Rule message which will further enhance the professional training of our Fire Officers who are committed to keeping the citizens of this City safer.

We appreciate the Committee's efforts and I am available to answer any questions that you may have.



————— AFFILIATED WITH —————

NEW YORK STATE AFL-CIO
NEW YORK CITY CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO * MARITIME PORT COUNCIL OF
GREATER NEW YORK & VICINITY * UNION LABEL & SERVICE TRADES COUNCIL OF
GREATER NEW YORK & LONG ISLAND * NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

TRI-STATE TRANSPORTATION CAMPAIGN



Mobilizing the Region

New York City Council Hearing
Testimony of Vincent Pellecchia
on Behalf of Tri-State Transportation Campaign
June 12, 2013

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. My name is Vincent Pellecchia, and I am the General Counsel for Tri-State Transportation Campaign. Tri-State is a non-profit policy and advocacy organization working for a more sustainable transportation network in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. I'd like to address the proposed speed camera demonstration program in New York City.

New York City's streets are not speedways, but the way people drive on them would suggest they are. Every day, countless drivers are exceeding the 30 mph speed limit on New York City's streets. Our streets are used by children, seniors, the disabled, motorists and bicyclists who put their lives in the hands of reckless drivers the minute their feet touch New York City pavement. Sidewalks, crosswalks or pedestrian islands will not stop a car that loses control at 60 mph. But speed cameras are a strong deterrent to putting the foot to the floor in the first place throughout our city.

As you know, the New York City Department of Transportation has embarked on significant initiatives to reduce speeding in the City, including reduced speed zones around schools and neighborhoods, traffic calming projects, a LOOK! campaign encouraging pedestrians to use infrastructure safely, an ad campaign highlighting the importance of motorists obeying the 30 mph speed limit.

Unfortunately, drivers continue to break the law—each year over 70,000 summonses are issued for speeding violations. Given that one in four traffic deaths in New York City is caused by speeding, the number of summonses issued is a fraction of the incidences occurring.

Speeding kills. When a person is hit by a car traveling 30 mph, there is a 20% chance that they'll be killed. If they are hit by a car traveling 40 mph, there is a 70% chance they'll be killed. Motor vehicles are the leading cause of death due to injury amongst children in NYC, and child pedestrians account for three quarters of these victims. In 2010, pedestrians accounted for 55% of traffic fatalities; speeding claimed two times as many lives as distracted driving and is the number one cause of fatalities in the New York City.

These are avoidable deaths and it is crucial that speed cameras be included in New York City's safety toolkit. Speed enforcement cameras are now in use in over 100 communities, in 13 states across the country. Research shows that speed enforcement cameras reduce injuries and fatalities by 40-45%, and reduce speeding by 71%. Their proven success is the reason why NYC Police Commissioner Ray Kelly issued his support for speed cameras this weekend. NYC needs streets that are safer—for pedestrians, bicyclists and drivers. Every day speed cameras are absent from New York City streets is another day needless and preventable deaths could occur.

We would like to thank Speaker Quinn, Transportation Chair James Vacca, and all the councilmembers who in March passed Resolution 0916-2011 introduced by Members Bramer and Levin.

The NYC Council must send a home rule message to Albany today that a speed camera demonstration program must be signed into law. These are preventable deaths and the longer our state elected officials take to sign this life-saving law into action, the more needless deaths occur on NYC's roads because of speeding.



**Hearing before the New York City Council Committee on State and
Federal Legislation
Home Rule Message: A7826 & S5663
June 12, 2013**

**Testimony by: Larry Scott Blackmon, Deputy Commissioner for
Community Outreach**

Good morning, I am Larry Scott Blackmon, Deputy Commissioner for Community Outreach for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Thank you for inviting us to testify on behalf of the home rule message in support of the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Project. This home rule message being proposed is in support of alienation legislation, bill number A7826 introduced in the New York State Assembly and bill number S5663 introduced in the New York State Senate.

Parks, in coordination with USTA National Tennis Center, Incorporated (USTA), are seeking legislative approval in connection with proposed improvements and an expansion to the facilities at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (NTC), located in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. These improvements collectively are known as the NTC Strategic Vision Project.

The NTC is one of the world's largest public recreational tennis facilities. For 11 months of the year, its facilities are open to the public for indoor and outdoor tennis; USTA maintains the facilities year-round. The NTC is also host to the US Open, one of the sport's four Grand Slam championship tennis tournaments. The event is staged during a two-week period around the beginning of September, is attended by approximately 700,000 spectators, and is broadcast worldwide.

The legislative approval subject of the home rule action before you would enable much-needed improvements and updates to the 42-acre NTC. The purpose of the proposed project is to sustain the long-term viability of the NTC as a world-class spectator venue and outstanding public recreational facility. It would result in a much needed improvement to the visitor experience and provide substantial long-term economic benefits to Queens, New York City, and the region.

The proposed project would improve the NTC site plan, circulation, visitor amenities, and landscaping, and would include construction of two new stadiums to replace the existing Louis Armstrong Stadium in the same location, and Grandstand Stadium in a new location at the southwest corner of the NTC site, as well as possible improvements to Arthur Ashe Stadium. The proposed project would also include modifications to tournament courts and ancillary buildings, the construction of two new parking garages, the relocation of a connector road, and pedestrian enhancements.

In addition, the project would minimize expansion beyond NTC lease boundaries to minimize the amount of alienation; maintain or improve public availability of courts; improve the NTC's context within the park; replace and upgrade aging, out-of-date

infrastructure and facilities that have reached the end of their useful lives; improve visitor circulation; and maintain opportunities for public programming throughout the year. The proposed site improvements and other components of the NTC Strategic Vision are intended to collectively further the project goals set forth above, addressing serious deficiencies in the three existing stadiums and making the NTC more comfortable and friendly to the public, fans, sponsors and players, and recreational users, year-round.

The bill proposes to amend the administrative code of the City of New York in order to lease to the USTA a .68-parcel (29,534 square feet) adjacent to the existing NTC and part of Flushing Meadows Corona Park in order to advance the NTC Strategic Vision Project and would rededicate as parkland land previously alienated and granted to the USTA.

The 0.68-acre strip that would be alienated is located north of United Nations Avenue North, and south of the existing NTC fence line. This area is currently a mix of landscaped and paved areas, including one lane of the three-lane United Nations Avenue North. The landscaped portion includes a triangular median area near an internal connector road, a median adjacent to the northernmost lane of United Nations Avenue North, and a narrow strip of lawn adjacent to the current NTC fence line. The landscaping includes trees in some areas, but no other park features, such as play equipment, benches, or statues.

Replacement park land for the project will be comprised of two parcels totaling 1.56 acres that will be surrendered from within the current boundaries of the NTC. These parcels were alienated in 1993 and are used as practice courts, with seating and related facilities, during the US Open and other major tennis tournaments. The two parcels are:

A 1.31-acre parcel located southeast of David Dinkins Circle, occupied by five tennis courts and 0.5 acres of landscaped areas. When not in use by USTA, these courts are used by the City Parks Foundation for lessons, hourly rentals, tournaments, leagues and special events. A portion of this parcel located along the eastern edge of the tennis courts is alienated but not included in the NTC Lease. The area included in the NTC lease is 1.16 acres.

A 0.25-acre landscaped parcel located just beyond the eastern end of the bank of six tennis courts to the east of the Passerelle.

Improvements to park features in Flushing Meadows Corona Park would also be provided. The USTA is committed to financially support Flushing Meadows Corona Park and will work with NYCDPR to facilitate park improvements to offset the 0.68-acre parcel to be added to the NTC leased premises.

USTA would have use of the replacement park land parcels during the US Open and, possibly, other tournaments, and USTA would remain responsible for maintenance and repair of the five tennis courts on an annual basis, so they continue to be available in good condition for public use.

The Parks Department is in support of the home rule legislation before you. I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify.

Testimony before the New York City Council

State and Federal Legislation Committee

In support of A. 6862

June 12, 2013

Good morning Chairperson Foster and members of the Committee. My name is Mary O'Connell. I am General Counsel to District Council 37. I also have the privilege of serving as the designated representative of Lillian Roberts on the New York City Deferred Compensation Board. I thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of A. 6862, a bill which would amend the New York State Finance Law to allow for equal number of employer and employee representatives on the plan. The New York City Deferred Compensation Board is comprised presently of ten members, two of which are representatives of employees. This bill alters the Board's composition to allow equal representation of employer and employee representatives.

The New York City deferred compensation board is comprised, pursuant to Executive Order, of ten members: the Mayor, the Police Commissioner, the Fire Commissioner, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Finance Commissioner, the Commissioner of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services, the Commissioner of the Office of Labor Relations, the Comptroller and two representatives of Municipal Labor Committee unions. I note that it was not until November of 2011 that the Mayor signed an Executive Order to allow any employee representation on the plan. While that change was a step in the right direction, we find it is insufficient to represent employee representatives in the best manner possible.

The function of the Board is to oversee administration of the City's deferred compensation program – which holds over \$12 billion in employee retirement savings. Members of MLC constituent unions hold 90% of the savings in the plans

various funds. Despite this, the unions representing these employees hold only two of ten votes on the board.

This legislation would update the Chapter Laws of 1982 to ensure that both employee and employer perspectives have equal representation in the decision-making process. The equal representation between employees and employers on the board will ensure that the New York City Deferred Compensation Board plan is striving to meet the needs of plan participants. In that the deferred compensation plan is comprised of assets held for the exclusive benefit of the employees, in an effort to ensure the long-term financial security of many employees, equal the employee representation on the Deferred Compensation Board is not only justifiable, but fundamental. I note that this change would be consistent with the composition of the other New York City pension boards which have significant employee representation, and wherein a vote of an employee representative is necessary in order to pass a measure.

Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss this important bill, and I would be happy to attempt to answer any questions you have.

**Statement to the New York City Council
Committee on State and Federal Legislation
Hearing on Home Rule Message for State Bills A.6867 and S.4907**

By: Steven H. Banks
Assistant Commissioner
NYC Office of Labor Relations
Date: June 12, 2013

Good morning Chairperson, and members of the Committee on State and Federal Legislation. My name is Steven Banks and I am an Assistant Commissioner with the City's Office of Labor Relations. I am here today representing Commissioner Hanley to testify regarding proposed State legislation that would change the composition of the City's Deferred Compensation Board. The proposed legislation would amend the State Finance Law to provide for increased union representation on the Deferred Compensation Board. The City opposes the proposed amendment.

The Deferred Compensation Board was established in 1985 by Mayoral Executive Order and the Board initially consisted of seven members or their designees -- the Mayor, the Comptroller, the Director of Municipal Labor Relations, the Director of Management and Budget, the Corporation Counsel, the Commissioner of Finance, and the Personnel Director. The Deferred Compensation Plan was initially available to non-represented employees only; the City's municipal unions later collectively bargained the right to take part in the Plan. The composition of the Board remained the same until 2011, when membership was increased to 10, removing the Corporation Counsel as a member and adding the Commissioners of the Police and Fire Departments. For the first time in the Board's history, two union representatives were added to the Board, to be appointed by the Municipal Labor Committee. These changes were also effectuated by Mayoral Executive Order, and were implemented in part because of municipal labor unions' request for representative participation on the Board.

The Sponsor's Memorandum for the proposed Assembly bill contains several errors. It states that the "New York City Deferred Compensation Board is comprised of three members." However, the City's Deferred Compensation Board consisted of 7 members from 1985-2011, and now has 10 members. In contrast, the State Deferred Compensation Board consists of three members, appointed by the Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the Senate Majority Leader. Notably, there is no union membership on the State Board. In addition, the Sponsor's Memorandum states that that "The New York City Deferred Compensation [Board] is solely comprised of employer representatives." This statement is also factually incorrect, for labor representatives have occupied seats on the Board for the past 18 months since the promulgation of Executive Order No. 158 of 2011.

This proposed legislation would dramatically change the composition of a City entity which has been an objective success for the 28 years of its existence. The New York City Deferred Compensation Board has expertly executed its responsibilities as currently constituted. The Deferred Compensation Plan is the second largest governmental defined contribution plan in the country with approximately 13 billion dollars and more than 155,000 participant accounts. The Plan has received more than 56 awards for excellence in administration, investment features, participant communications and financial reporting and is recognized as being among the most influential plans in the defined contribution industry. In formal and informal settings, the leaders of the City's municipal unions have consistently praised the Deferred Compensation Plan as an extremely well-run entity and an example of good government. There is no compelling reason to disturb this successful structure.

For these reasons, the City opposes state bills A.6867 and S.4907. Thank you for the opportunity to share our views today.

Testimony of Mario Merlino
Assistant Commissioner, Veterinary and Pest Control Services
Division of Environmental Health
New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

On Home Rule Legislation in Support of A2046

New York City Council
June 12, 2013

Good Morning Chairperson Arroyo and members of the City Council. My name is Mario Merlino, and I am the Assistant Commissioner for Veterinary and Pest Control Services in the Division of Environmental Health at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Thank you for inviting me to testify in support of the Council's home rule message in support of A2046, which would give New York City the ability to set the fee for dog licensing.

The Department has pursued this legislation for two years primarily to enable the Department to modernize its licensing program, increase the proportion of dogs that are licensed, and to raise critical revenue to support the already substantially increased funding for our animal shelters. Let me briefly review all of the reasons we support the bill:

- **NYC should have the same authority to set the license fee as other NY localities.**
The New York State Agriculture and Markets law directs localities to establish a license fee, but NYC is governed by an unconsolidated law enacted in 1894 and not this Agriculture and Markets statute. This legislation would establish a uniform approach to dog licensing around the state.
- **The license fee was intended to fully support animal care and control activities but no longer covers even the cost of issuing the license.**
A license for altered dogs in New York City costs only \$8.50, an amount that has not changed since 1974, and it is now one of the lowest fees in the state and of any major city in the country. The fees generated by dog licensing were intended to help defray the cost of the animal care and control program but no longer even cover the costs of issuing licenses and investigating complaints about dogs. Because the fee has not increased in nearly forty years, NYC is losing money on its state-mandated licensing program. This legislation would allow the New York City Council to raise the fee to meet the legislative intent.
- **New York City will seek local legislation to increase the fee to enable improved animal care services.**
If the City Council is authorized to set the fee for dog licensing, New York City will seek local legislation to raise the fee to generate revenue needed to support improvements underway in the city animal shelters. Thanks to the City Council, the Department has increased the budget for Animal Care & Control, the non-profit under contract to operate animal shelters, already by more than two-thirds and by 2015, by 77%, improving veterinary care and shelter maintenance. These enhancements make sheltered animals more likely to be placed in new homes.
- **Obtaining a license will be easier for dog owners**
The legislation will make it easier for dog owners to obtain licenses in a variety of ways. By increasing the financial incentive for potential third party issuers to 10% of the base fee rather than just \$1.00 in the current law, we will work to bring more licensing at points of sale, veterinary clinics and pet events. The City will improve its on-line licensing to streamline the application by enabling owners to certify the spay/neuter status of their dog, and to enable auto-renewals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

**Testimony of Robert Sweeney
Chief of Operations
New York City Fire Department**

Introduction

Good afternoon Chairperson Foster and Council Members. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with about a proposed State bill mandating certain training for officers of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY).

The proposed bill would require the FDNY to provide all of our fire officers with at least 40 hours of training and instruction in the City Fire Code and at least 40 hours of training and instruction in the City Building and Construction Codes. The bill mandates the training be provided by January 1, 2011. We estimate the training mandates of this bill would cost the FDNY more than \$16 million.

Training

Before I discuss the bill, I would like to make the Committee aware of our commitment to training and how we have vastly improved and strengthened the training that we provide.

Since 9/11, we have increased our academy training four-fold at every rank. On any given day, the FDNY has 20 units at our training academy utilizing state-of-the-art high-rise, subway, flashover and other simulators. Our training – in terms of quantity, quality and breadth -- is light years ahead of where we were when, for example, I entered the fire service years ago.

Regarding training specifically in the Fire and Building Codes, we feel very strongly that we are using our existing resources to provide essential training to

familiarize our fire officers and Firefighters with the key aspects of the Fire and Building Codes; we place special emphasis on fire safety, fire prevention and building construction.

Probationary Firefighters now receive approximately 24 hours of training in fire prevention and approximately 24 hours of training in building construction. Newly promoted fire Lieutenants and Captains receive approximately 16 hours of training in each of those categories, and our Chiefs receive 16 hours of training in fire prevention and approximately 20 hours in building construction.

Starting last June, a specialized Training Unit visits firehouses to train firefighters and officers in the FDNY Inspectional Guides -- and the changes to the Fire and Building Codes that they incorporate. The Training Unit is visiting each house at least four times to ensure that all members are trained.

Additionally, the FDNY has recently taken a number of steps to improve and streamline inspections and enforcement. Significantly, we have established a specialized unit with 15 uniformed officers who are highly trained in the new Fire and Building Codes. They provide training and operate a hotline to respond to questions from the field. These officers also have developed new user-friendly inspection forms to facilitate and guide inspections, new training materials to improve building inspections, and enforcement guides to demonstrate how to complete summons and violation forms and reports.

In addition to the firehouse visits I just mentioned, all FDNY officers receive two days of dedicated Building Inspection Safety Program (BISP) training, which includes Fire and Building Code training. This training, along with the new BISP manual and

instruction forms and checklists, provides all the information and guidance an officer needs to perform effective inspections.

The Bill

With unlimited resources, I would not dismiss the idea of adding even more training on top of what we already provide. But bearing the \$16 million plus cost of the training contemplated by the bill would prove to be a severe hardship for the FDNY in light of the extraordinary budget reductions we now face. The Mayor's Preliminary Budget called for the closing of 20 fire companies, with the possibility of an *additional* 42 closures depending on the State budget process. This is in addition to the 30 ambulance tours we lost last year, a longstanding civilian hiring freeze and the delay of more than a year in hiring a new Probationary Firefighter class.

Cost alone – while significant -- is not the sole reason we oppose this bill. The FDNY is the leader in fire personnel training, at every level, nationwide. The FDNY is uniquely qualified to assess the Department's training needs. The proposed bill undermines our discretion to make decisions about the training we provide to our members. The Fire Commissioner is responsible for establishing the training prerogatives of the FDNY. By mandating an inflexible requirement and timetable for providing the training, this legislation encroaches heavily on that responsibility, impeding the Commissioner's City Charter-mandated decision-making authority to establish the Department's training prerogatives. In addition, the mandate that all of this training be completed by January 1, 2011 is completely unrealistic. We have a full schedule of critically important training scheduled at our Fire Academy every single day.

Lastly, I am advised that the Department of Buildings (DOB) and OMB estimate that DOB's costs as a result of this bill would be approximately \$1.4 million for trainers and curriculum. This roughly \$18 million expenditure just makes no sense when we are possibly facing 20 or more fire companies closings.

In sum, the FDNY strongly opposes the bill. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I would be happy to take your questions at this time.

**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION
June 12, 2013**

Good morning, Chairperson Foster and members of the Committee on State and Federal Legislation. My name is Kate Slevin and I am the Assistant Commissioner of Intergovernmental Affairs for the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT). I'm joined today by Ed Pincar, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at DOT.

I'm here to testify in strong support of the home rule message for A4327-A, which would authorize a New York City speed camera program to enhance safety around schools. Passage of this State Legislation Resolution (SLR) today would send a powerful message to Albany to act on this life saving bill. Speed cameras, which have already won the support of dozens of state and city elected officials along with major publications and advocacy groups, are a pragmatic and appropriate proposal that would aid DOT's efforts to improve safety on New York City's streets. The legislation would allow us to install speed cameras at up to 20 school safety zones throughout the city and to ticket drivers who go 10 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit. This rate of speeding is simply life-threatening. In fact, studies show that if a pedestrian is struck at 30 miles per hour, there is a 70% chance she will survive; if a pedestrian is struck at 40 miles per hour, there is an 80% chance she will die.

DOT has made exceptional progress to reduce the number of traffic related deaths over the last decade. Our street redesigns, safety programs, and education campaigns have resulted in the safest five years since recordkeeping began in 1910. The City has also seen a reduction in traffic fatalities by more than 30 percent in the past decade and 54,000 fewer traffic injuries a year compared to 2001.

Many of our safety programs and projects have been focused around schools. We have installed 2,000 speed humps near schools since 1996. Through a mix of traffic calming, new signage, and speed limit reductions, we have made safety improvements at nearly 300 schools, with more on the way.

But speeding remains a persistent problem. Speeding was the single greatest contributing factor among the 274 traffic deaths in 2012. Attached to my testimony is a list of 100 school zones across the five boroughs where 75% of vehicles were found to be speeding.

To address this widespread problem and, ultimately, reach our ambitious goal of cutting traffic fatalities in half by 2030, the City needs additional safety and enforcement tools.

Over 100 cities and towns across the country have installed speed cameras and the results are clear. Speed cameras reduce speeds and save lives. In New Orleans, speed cameras led to an 84% drop in speeding. An analysis in Montgomery County, Maryland revealed that the proportion of drivers exceeding speed limits by more than 10 miles per hour declined by approximately 70% after speed cameras were installed. In fact, research shows that this technology reduces injuries and fatalities by 40 to 45 percent.

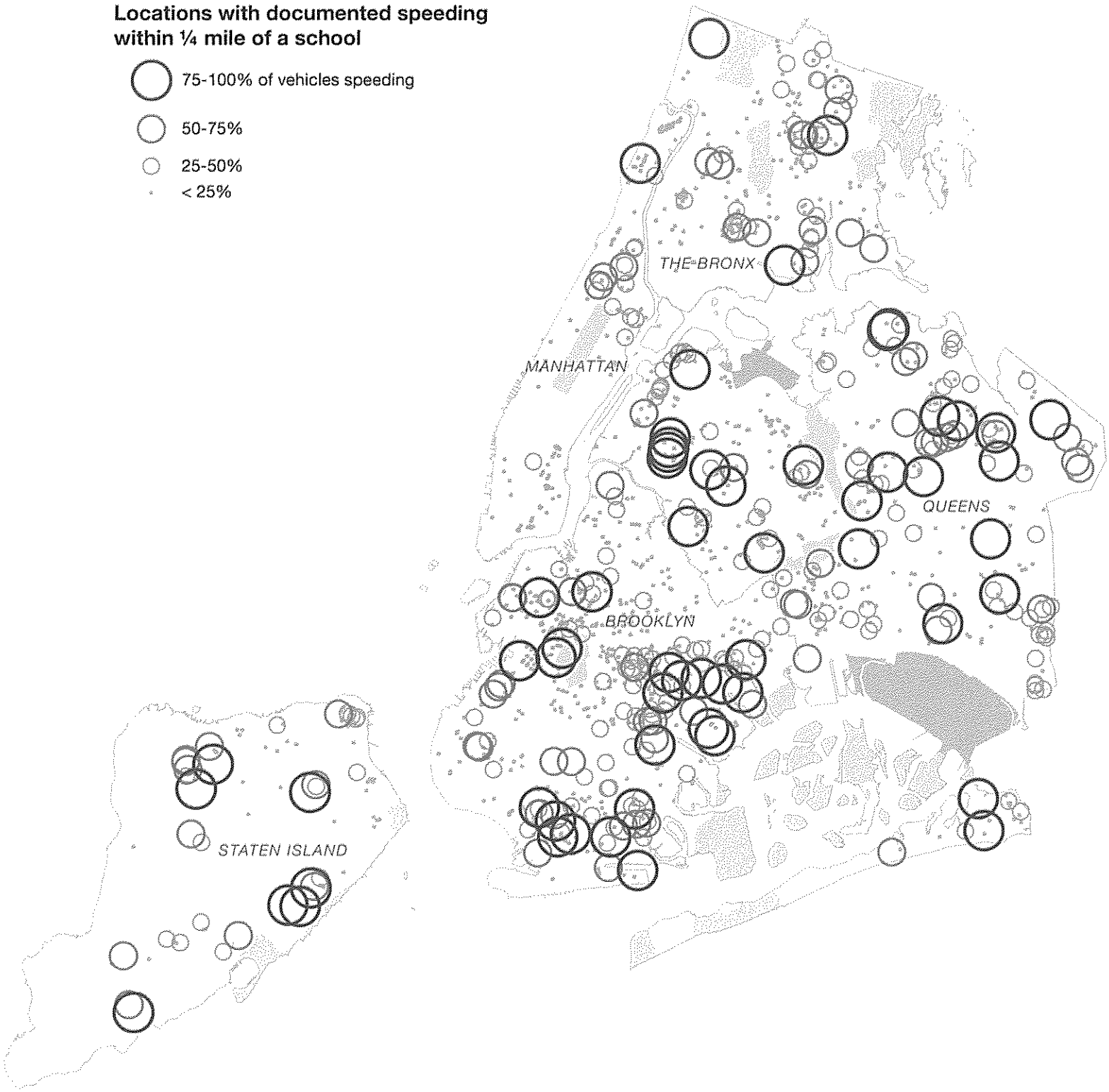
DOT's experience with red light cameras supports these statistics. Intersections where red light cameras were installed saw a 56% decline in serious injuries, a 44% decrease in pedestrian injuries, and a 16% decrease in all injuries.

For these reasons, DOT and a broad coalition of people interested in protecting the lives of schoolchildren support the common sense speed camera proposal. The legislation would give DOT an additional, effective, and necessary mechanism to change driver behavior and reduce accidents and fatalities related to speeding.

In summary, DOT strongly urges the Council to pass a home rule in favor of A4327-A/S4459-A to greatly enhance safety in New York City. Thank you for your consideration and for working with us to improve the safety of our streets. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

**Locations with documented speeding
within ¼ mile of a school**

- 75-100% of vehicles speeding
- 50-75%
- 25-50%
- < 25%



**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

A. 687

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. T6439 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/12/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Reggie Thomas

Address: Mayor's Office of City Leg. Affairs

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. T6434 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/12/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Reggie Thomas

Address: _____

I represent: Mayor's Office of City Leg. Affairs

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. T6435 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition (submitting testimony)

Date: 6/12/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Reggie Thomas

Address: _____

I represent: Mayor's Office of City Legislative Affairs

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. Deferred C.B. Res. No. A-6862
 in favor in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steve Banics

Address: OLR

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

A7826 +
S5663

Date: 6/12/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Colleen Alderson, Director of Parklands

Address: The Arsenal, Central Park

I represent: Parks Department

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
 in favor in opposition

A7826 +
S5663

Date: 6/12/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Larry Scott Blackmon, Deputy Commissioner

Address: The Arsenal, Central Park

I represent: Parks Department

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/12/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lt. Eddie Boles

Address: _____

I represent: Uniformed Fire Officers Association

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. SLR Speed Cameras Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/12/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Vincent Pellicchia

Address: Tri-State Transportation Campaign

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6-12-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mary O'Connell

Address: 125 Beekman NY NY 10007

I represent: General Labor Committee

Address: 25 West 70

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. A2046 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/12/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARIO MERLINO

Address: _____

I represent: DOMUH

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/12/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kate Stevin

Address: NYC DOT

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/12/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ed Pincus

Address: NYC DOT

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms