



September 3, 2020

Hon. Mayor Bill de Blasio  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor de Blasio,

We write to you as elected representatives of our shared districts to request that your administration take immediate and crucial steps to protect the safety of New Yorkers participating in curbside dining across the city, by both significantly lowering speed limits on streets with roadbed restaurant setups, and by implementing physical protections on streets where such speed limit reductions cannot be easily put into effect.

As *The Wall Street Journal* detailed on August 2, 2020<sup>1</sup>, the NYPD has reported that eight people have been injured in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens and Manhattan, in four separate incidents in which drivers crashed into patrons dining along the curbside. We believe the number of incidents is likely much higher, and that only the most high-profile cases<sup>2,3</sup> have resulted in police reports or media coverage. There have been several additional documented crashes that occurred when restaurant tables were unoccupied<sup>4,5</sup>, which could have otherwise had devastating consequences.

We do not take issue with the Open Restaurants program, in fact we support unequivocally and ask that your administration adequately protect restaurant patrons and workers from fast-moving vehicular traffic. The Open Restaurants effort has been a godsend for our beleaguered restaurants and bars, which have been dealt a catastrophic blow by COVID-19.

However, we must do more as a city to protect curbside diners from the dangers of cars and trucks. We implore you to impose a temporary 10 MPH speed limit on any streets that have curbside restaurant setups. Asking drivers via Twitter<sup>6</sup> to slow down to the city speed limit is simply inadequate. Instead, the city should declare locations with curbside dining shared-street zones have a 10 MPH speed limit.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-york-city-sees-auto-accidents-at-temporary-dining-areas-11596387600>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/news/2020/07/14/car-plows-into-expanded-outdoor-dining-restaurant--raising-safety-concerns>

<sup>3</sup> <https://abc7ny.com/car-into-restaurant-lwren-brooklyn-sunset-park/6329425/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://abc7ny.com/nyc-outdoor-dining-crash-upper-east-side-car-into-restaurant/6335499/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://bronx.news12.com/story/42301035/bronx-cafe-works-to-rebuild-outdoor-dining-space-after-it-was-destroyed-by-car-crash>

<sup>6</sup> [https://twitter.com/NYC\\_DOT/status/1291088910026780672](https://twitter.com/NYC_DOT/status/1291088910026780672)

Where this might not be possible, for example, on major avenues and boulevards, we urge you to quickly install physically protective measures, such as jersey barriers, water-filled barriers, or at the least, flex-posts and kwik curb similar to what DOT installed along 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Midtown last fall<sup>7</sup>.

The time to take these steps is now, *before* a crash results in serious injury or death. Such an incident could lead New Yorkers to shy away from curbside dining at a time when our restaurants need every patron they can get. We shouldn't have to choose between saving the food-service industry and physical safety when we have the means to protect both.

We ask you to move quickly to implement the safeguards we've outlined above and anxiously await confirmation that your administration is taking the necessary steps to effectuate them.

Sincerely,



Senator Gustavo Rivera



Assemblywoman Catalina Cruz



Council Member Daniel Dromm

cc: The Hon. Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation  
The Hon. Corey Johnson, Speaker, New York City Council

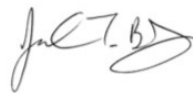
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<sup>7</sup> [https://twitter.com/NYC\\_DOT/status/1180220989176713216](https://twitter.com/NYC_DOT/status/1180220989176713216)

**CURBSIDE DINING SAFETY**

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Jamaal T. Bailey



Senator  
Alessandra Biaggi



Senator  
Andrew Goumardes  
*Brad Hageman*



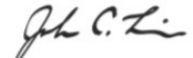
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Senator  
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Senator  
Brian Kavanagh



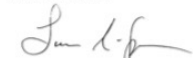
Senator  
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Senator  
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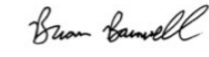
Senator  
Julia Salazar



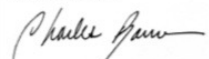
Senator  
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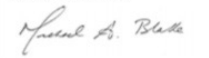
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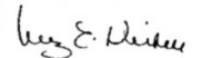
Assemblyman  
Brian Barnwell



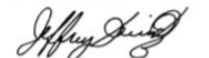
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Charles Barron



Assemblyman  
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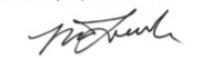
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Harvey Epstein



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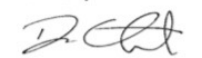
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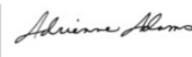
Assemblyman  
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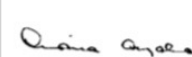
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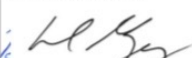
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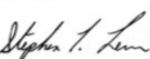
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