

THE SAVING-LIVES THROUGH BETTER-INFORMATION BILL

Intro. 0120-2010 (Lappin)

SUMMARY

This legislation will require the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to make certain crucial traffic-related safety statistics publicly available. The data will be displayed on the department's webpage, disaggregated by precinct in the same manner and updated with the same frequency as CompStat crime statistics.

WHY THIS LEGISLATION IS NEEDED

Despite recent positive trends, more than 250 New Yorkers were killed on New York City's roads in 2009. Injuries to pedestrians exceed 10,000 annually. **And being hit by a car remains the number one cause of injury-related deaths in children 1-14 years of age and the second leading cause of injury-related deaths in those over the age of 45.**

This bill will empower key community stakeholders—local residents, community boards and elected officials—with the crucial life-saving information they need to effectively campaign for safer streets in their individual communities.

Instead of working from anecdotal evidence, communities will now have precinct-specific data about moving violations, traffic crashes, and the contributing factors related to these incidents such as speeding or drunk driving—and in turn, will be better able to argue their intuited cases and call for improvements. Additionally, by working with their local precincts, community members will help create the type of strategies and enforcement that make the most sense for their individual neighborhood.



With hard data and informed by real-life experience, community members can fight for, and win, safer streets.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS TO CONSIDER

While opponents may argue that this legislation will place an undue burden on the NYPD, the reality is that this data is already regularly collected by the department. The only additional work mandated by this bill is that the data be made publically available. The existing CompStat model serves as an example of how the department can and does make critical data available to the public to great benefit.

In addition to saving lives and averting injuries, this legislation will also reduce the financial costs associated with automobile crashes. Using the most conservative estimates, traffic injuries and fatalities cost the City tens of millions of dollars each year. In 2000, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that each serious injury costs \$314,204 and each fatality costs \$3,366,388. If this bill were to save even one life or prevent one car crash, it would exponentially offset its implementation costs.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This legislation would take effect one hundred and twenty days after its enactment into law.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

- Office of Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr.
- AARP
- Local 372—New York City Board of Education Employees
- The New York County Chapter of the New York State Academy of Family Physicians
- The Public Health Association of New York City
- New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
- Grey Panthers—Age and Youth In Action
- CHEKPEDS: Clinton/Hell's Kitchen Coalition for Pedestrian Safety
- The New York League of Conservation Voters
- The Tri-State Transportation Campaign



TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES

127 West 26th Street, Suite 1002
New York, NY 11238
transalt.org