

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

April 24, 2017

The Honorable James P. O'Neill
Police Commissioner
New York Police Department
One Police Plaza
New York, NY 10038

Dear Commissioner O'Neill:

I write to express my support of the New York Police Department's (NYPD) 5th Precinct in their work declaring certain areas of Chinatown as "permit free zones." Over the course of the past few weeks, areas around Mott Street, Bayard and Mulberry Streets have been targeted areas of parking enforcement. Specifically, officers have posted notices on lamp posts and have affixed flyers on all parked cars that use "placard" parking privileges. In some cases, the Department has enforced this permit free zone policy by towing repeat offenders.

The Department's policy has been largely applauded by the community, as it has opened up scarce on-street parking that was previously inaccessible. The 5th Precinct's work has made it easier for local business owners to receive their deliveries and has, in some cases, increased business sales.

In summary, this approach has not gone unnoticed—and the community at large supports the Precinct's actions. I encourage such efforts to continue, as the benefits are exponential for local business and police-community relations.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the use of permit free zones further, please contact Jonathan Martinez on my staff at Jonathan.Martinez@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress

cc: Tommy M. Ng, Deputy Inspector, NYPD 5th Precinct