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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ**

7TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

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WOMEN'S ISSUES

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PACIFIC AMERICAN CAUCUS

April 1, 2025

Jessica S. Tisch  
Police Commissioner  
New York City Police Department  
1 Police Plaza  
New York, NY 10038

Ydanis Rodriguez  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Transportation  
55 Water Street - Suite 401  
New York, New York 10001

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my concern about the recent reports of dangerous and disruptive illegal street racing taking place in Ozone Park, Queens. These gatherings have increased in frequency and size and continue to pose a clear threat to public safety while undermining the authority of the 102nd Police Precinct.

As reported by residents, on March 29, 2025, a large group of racers unlawfully shut down Rockaway Boulevard at 83rd and 84th Street between the hours of 10:00 PM and 1:30 AM. This was not an isolated incident. Ozone Park has seen more of these dangerous gatherings, often involving street racing, loud noise, and disruptive behavior. Participants have shown a blatant disregard for public safety and use social media to glorify and promote these illegal activities. These events not only endanger the lives of participants and bystanders but also place an enormous burden on property due to cars skidding off the roadway.

Rockaway Boulevard is a four-lane roadway with heavy opposing traffic flow. In a city that has adopted Vision Zero, it is imperative that we take all necessary steps to implement traffic safety measures at all hours of the day. I stand with community residents on this issue, and I am calling for immediate action to address this on two fronts:

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1. **New York City Police Department:** Increase enforcement to deter reckless driving and ensure compliance with traffic laws, including targeted crackdowns on illegal street racing and possibly the installation of a sky watch tower.
2. **New York City Department of Transportation:** Initiate a comprehensive assessment to identify opportunities for improvement, such as the possible installation of a median barrier to reduce cars from making U-turns onto oncoming traffic, enhance signage, revisit light changing signal timing, enhance street lighting for better visibility and reporting, and deploy a radar speed trailer.

It is because of public safety concerns like this that I supported the passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The BIL established the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant program. This historic legislation provides \$5 billion in funding for the grant over a five-year period. The SS4A program funds initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The SS4A program encourages actions such as: managing speeds for safety and building complete streets and other proactive, upstream strategies to support safety over speed. The BIL awarded New York State over \$29 billion including federal funds for transportation and roadway safety projects. It is essential for the city to pursue this funding to execute these lifesaving improvements.

As warm weather approaches, we anticipate these speed racing activities will increase. A proactive approach is essential to prevent loss of life and protect our community. It is critical that improvements be implemented with the support and input of the community.

I thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

CC: Commanding Officer Pratima B. Maldonado  
Borough Commissioner Nicole Garcia  
Ozone Park Residents Block Association