Wednesday April 26th

Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez,

Hello, I am Kathy Farren, we met about a year ago when you were here on 34th Ave for the ribbon cutting. I asked you if I could show you what I felt was a dangerous situation. I know you have met many people, but you might remember me!

I took you to 78th Street which is a street that was taken away (one of many) from the community. On that block I took you to a handicap entrance to Dunnolly Gardens where there are many planters and cement blocks, blocking that entrance for ambulances or deliveries. At that time, you told your assistant and Jason Banray of the DOT to investigate it. Almost a year later and nothing has changed.

For over two years I have been saying I am not in favor of the change to 34th Avenue because I am in my 70th year and I am not about to ride a bike to get to my needs for the day.

When I purchased my apartment in 2007, I did not choose to live in a segregated gated community. I said segregated because that is what you are doing by making it a gated community. Separating our community.

I have been preaching about SAFETY. Safety of people and their homes. People must get out of their cars to move the barrier, this is dangerous! Drivers are at risk for carjacking. Parents must leave children in the car to get out and move the barriers. The safety issue is real! Ambulances and Fire Trucks cannot maneuver around the barriers in a timely manner. I don’t think many Ambulances and Fire trucks drive slow to an emergency. We are at risk! If they are moving at a good speed to get to the emergency, they themselves are in danger of flipping over when turning.

 Sanitation, why do we not get our streets cleaned now? Services that I believe are part of our taxes to the city. Is it because the trucks cannot get around the war like blocks of cement that have been put around our once beautiful neighborhood. The signs have been removed for alternate side parking around Travers Park. There are people that walk around with a garbage bag and pick up large pieces of paper. But the people that live in 77-02 and 77-10 no sweeper comes into their street. Why???

I would like to continue with the fact that many of the signs that are up on our avenue are not legal signs. As of today, I believe 34th avenue is still a shared road. Signs on your barriers say no through traffic. That is not true. Also, the signs that say 5 MPH, that law has not been set yet. NOT TRUE!

Back to the DANGER, after 8 pm not all the barriers are removed. If driving from 69th street up to 76th Street where I live is like training to become an emergency vehicle driver. DANGEROUS!! Now because DOT has made it seem that the street is open to walkers all the time, people sit on the median at all hours of the night. Sitting on the median in dark clothes on a dark street is dangerous for all.

Now to your new reason for having bikers all over the city. You claim that it makes us all healthier. First, I am in my 70th year and my husband in his 76th year. We are not about to start riding bikes in the streets like we are in our 50’s. We rode bikes back in the day, NOT today! But back to your claim that it is healthier. I might agree with you if everyone was riding a peddled bike. But I would say 80% of the Riders here on 34th Avenue are on Electric scooters, Electric mopeds and Electric bikes. So healthy, I would say NOT! DANGEROUS, YES!

Once again, I am on the Safety bandwagon. I have been preaching to have these 26 blocks put to a vote. If the people in the community want it to be ok, let’s make it safe. But not having any say and you and the Mayor and Transportation Alternatives and Uber and all the other rich people and the people getting richer from the bike project being shoved down our throats when YOU know it is not safe or fair, it is NOT right.

As I told you a year ago. If you really want input from the people who are affected by this, reach out to me and people like me. Not just all your yes people! I tried to wait and say some of my thoughts, on Monday at the City Council meeting, But the meeting started late, plus 1 and ½ hours into the meeting, I had to disconnect, you see I needed to get to an appointment, and I must move barriers to get to where I needed to go.

Thanks for listening. Hope you might get to read this but probably not. Can’t say I haven’t tried.

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