



GRAMERCY PARK BLOCK ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

Thank you for inviting me to have breakfast with you tomorrow. As President of the Gramercy Park Block Association and a Trustee of Gramercy Park, I welcome the opportunity to meet with you.

I greatly appreciate your asking about issues of concern to our community. There is one in particular that is so important I feel it should be brought to your attention if it is ever going to be resolved.

The problem involves the huge number of accidents at the intersection of Lexington Avenue and Gramercy Park North (21st Street). Since April of 1996, when the 13th Precinct began computerizing highway accident statistics, there have been 209 accidents recorded at that location. In 1996 there were 6 accidents, in 1997 there were 6, in 1998 there were 6, in 1999 there were 2, in 2000 there were 39, in 2001 there were 23, in 2002 there were 27, in 2003 there were 51, in 2004 there were 23, and in 2005 so far there have been 26 accidents. (In January of this year there were 8 accidents, in February there were 2, in March there were 4, in April there were 5, in May there were 4, and in June there were 3.)

The Gramercy Park Block Association, the Trustees of Gramercy Park and the 13th Precinct have been working for years to address this problem. In March of this year, because of the increase in frequency and severity of the accidents (a pedestrian was run over in March) Deputy Inspector Michael J. McEnroy, Commanding Officer of the 13th Precinct, sent emergency traffic recommendations to Community Board Six. They were overwhelmingly approved by the Community Board and forwarded immediately by District Manager Toni Carlina to Department of Transportation Borough Commissioner Margaret Forgione.

We believe that by far the most critical recommendation is to desynchronize the traffic light at Lexington Avenue and East 22nd Street. This would cause speeding southbound traffic to stop at East 22nd Street before continuing on and crashing into the Gramercy Park fence, as has been the case many times.

I am attaching newspaper articles that will give you additional information about the problem and the approved recommendations.

To date nothing has been done with the exception of the placement of one small sign. It is clear to us that we need your help if we are ever going to increase the safety of the people in the Park, the pedestrians on the street and the drivers of the vehicles.

Thank you very much for taking the time to review this. I am looking forward to meeting with you tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Arlene S. Harrison