THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

CITY HALL
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

October 8, 2026

Hon. Lisa F. Garcia
Commissioner
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11373

RE: Request for placement of a photo noise violation monitoring device, Seventh Avenue between West 52nd and West 54th Streets, Manhattan

Dear Commissioner Garcia:

As New York City Council Members representing Seventh Avenue in midtown Manhattan, we write to request that the Department of Environmental Protection install a photo noise violation monitoring device on Seventh Avenue between West 52nd and West 54th Streets in Manhattan, consistent with Local Law 7 of 2024 and all other applicable rules and regulations.

As DEP has documented, noise complaints have increased dramatically in New York City in recent years, negatively affecting public health and quality of life by contributing to sleep deprivation and hearing loss. The cameras use noise-measuring equipment and automatically photograph vehicles in violation, providing both an enforcement mechanism and a deterrent.

New York City Local Law 7 of 2024 required no fewer than five noise cameras in each of New York City's five boroughs and charges DEP with administering and operating the program, including camera calibration and installation. DEP's 2025 annual report lists only four noise cameras in Manhattan, however, with none in west Midtown between 41st and 65th Streets.

We respectfully request that DEP install a noise camera at an appropriate site on Seventh Avenue between West 52nd and West 54th Streets. The Seventh Avenue corridor has a documented need for additional enforcement: roughly 100 noise complaints to 311 emanated from occupants of

826 Seventh Avenue (between West 53rd and West 54th Streets) in the twelve months ending in August 2026, more than the number of noise complaints filed by any other address in the surrounding blocks. Approximately 55% of complaints in the corridor were filed between midnight and 6:00 a.m. – but only six resulted in any enforcement action, because vehicle noise often moves on before an officer can arrive. Residents voiced these concerns at the most recent meeting of the Midtown North Precinct Community Council on September 15, 2026, describing a car rally on Seventh Avenue at approximately 1:30 a.m. the night before. NYPD Community Affairs officers from the Precinct stated that the precinct's efforts to enforce noise regulations are currently limited to weekends, leaving Midtown residents and workers with little recourse.

Pursuant to Administrative Code section 24-236.1(c), when a Council Member requests a camera at a specific location, DEP must assess the request and respond within 30 days. We therefore request that DEP conduct an assessment of Seventh Avenue between West 52nd and West 54th Streets and provide a determination within that statutory timeframe. DEP's 2025 noise report indicates that approximately $1.4 million in penalties were imposed for noise violations, with approximately $300,000 paid, while vendor costs for cameras totaled $108,092 for calendar year 2025.

We appreciate the Department's attention to this request and look forward to its determination.

Sincerely,

Virginia Maloney
City Council Member

Carl Wilson
City Council Member

cc: Manhattan Community Board 5
West 50s Neighborhood Association
Manhattan Borough President Brad Hoylman-Sigal