

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

March 8, 2018

Lyle Blackwood
Community Coordinator, Manhattan Borough Commissioner's Office
Department of Transportation
59 Maiden Lane, 37th Floor
New York, NY 10038

Dear Mr. Blackwood:

On behalf of Columbia University in the City of New York, Barnard College and the Interchurch Center, we kindly request that the Department of Transportation consider installation of pedestrian safety measures at the intersection of West 119th Street and Claremont Avenue. Specifically, we would like to request the installation of a crosswalk and north and south stop signs at 119th street in order to protect the safety of faculty, students, and community residents who regularly cross the street at this intersection.


Over 1,300 students, faculty and employees live and work in the Columbia and Barnard residential buildings on the west side of Claremont Avenue and adjacent residences on Riverside Drive between 120th and 116th streets. Additionally, approximately 70 employees and children access the Tompkins Hall Nursery and Childcare on Claremont Avenue on a daily basis. The Interchurch Center receives up to 3,000 visitors per day, including their employees and tenants within the building on Riverside Drive.

Currently, there are no crosswalks, stop signs, or speed limit signs from 120th Street to 116th Street along Claremont Avenue. Access to the Barnard College campus on the east side of 119th Street on Claremont Avenue has resulted in college faculty and students, along with many other local community residents regularly crossing Claremont Avenue at 119th street. Due to the lack of signage, members of our various communities have expressed concerns about safety along this corridor, and specifically at this intersection.

We kindly ask that the Department of Transportation review these concerns. We believe that the installation of a crosswalk and stop signs at 119th street would greatly improve pedestrian safety along this corridor. Members of our various institutions are happy to meet with your team to further discuss this request.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Karen Jeyett
Vice President for Government and Community Affairs
Columbia University in the City of New York



Gail A. Beltrone
Vice President for Campus Services
Barnard College



Paula M. Mayo
President and Executive Director
The Interchurch Center