



*THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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**CM CHIN JOINS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
CHAIR TO PRAISE LEGISLATION TO EXEMPT
PRESS VEHICLES FROM PARKING REGULATIONS**

*Bill recognizes importance of parking flexibility for media
professionals covering important stories throughout our City*

NEW YORK- Today, Council Member Margaret Chin joined Council Transportation Committee Chair Ydanis Rodriguez to push for the passage of legislation that would exempt reporters, TV producers, and other media professionals from no parking, no standing and muni-meter regulations while on the job.

"The freedom of the press and their ability to gather the news is an indispensable component of good government, and that coverage is vital to the people of this City," **said Council Member Margaret Chin.** "Media professionals must have flexibility when it comes to parking regulations so that they can do their jobs effectively – even while traveling along our crowded and congested streets. I am proud to join Transportation Committee chair Rodriguez to call on our colleagues to stand up for press freedom by supporting this important piece of legislation."

"Members of the press should have every right to do their job without fear of a ticket," **said Council Transportation Chair Ydanis Rodriguez.** "The press serve the public good in quickly disseminating information to our city residents, meaning they need to get in and out of areas quickly and efficiently. Many of the reporters on the ground carry valuable equipment that cannot be carried on the train or through other means, highlighting a real need for a secure space. While I generally do not support incentivizing driving over other means of transportation, I recognize the value of the press and their need to cover stories as they happen. I am proud to sponsor this legislation and am glad my colleague Margaret Chin is such a strong supporter."

The legislation, Intro 779, would exempt registered press vehicles from no parking, no standing and muni-meter regulations, and would limit parking in existing NYP zones to press vehicles only.

Currently, there are no exemptions from parking regulations made for members of the press. For almost 50 years, the Police Department issued Press Vehicle Identification Cards that permitted the press to park when covering the news in locations where parking would normally be prohibited. In 2009, the NYPD declined to reissue the cards.

Today, the Council's Committee on Transportation held a hearing on the legislation, which was introduced by Council Member Rodriguez earlier this month. The bill is pending before the committee.

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