



## THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\***

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### **COUNCIL MEMBERS CHIN, MENDEZ AND RODRIGUEZ URGE NYPD TO FILE CHARGES AGAINST DRIVER WHO HIT AND KILLED SENIOR CITIZEN WHILE DISREGARDING PEDESTRIAN RIGHT OF WAY**

Today, Council Members Margaret Chin, Rosie Mendez and Ydanis Rodriguez sent a letter to NYPD Transportation Chief Thomas Chan in which they called for charges to be filed against the rental van driver who hit and killed 82-year-old Sui Leung in Lower Manhattan on September 25.

The letter, attached, cites the NYPD's own report on the incident, which took place at the intersection of Elizabeth and Kenmare Streets, and in which Ms. Leung clearly had the right of way as she walked through the crosswalk.

Responding to inquiries from Council Member Chin's office, NYPD officials have stated that no arrest has yet been made, although an investigation is still open.

"If we are really serious about committing to the principles of Vision Zero in New York City, as well as clearly sending that message to all our residents, we must hold drivers fully accountable when their negligent actions result in pedestrian injuries or deaths," **wrote Council Members Chin, Mendez and Rodriguez in the attached letter.** "This is about creating a true culture shift in our city regarding street safety, as well as establishing a strong standard of equal respect and justice for all who use the road, whether they are pedestrians, cyclists or drivers, and regardless of their age or level of mobility.

"We believe that failing to file charges against the driver who hit and killed Ms. Leung would deny her family justice, while also damaging our city's commitment to Vision Zero by showing that drivers will not be held accountable for hitting and killing a pedestrian who clearly had the right of way. It would be deeply disturbing and counterproductive to our efforts to improve street safety across New York City."

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