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October 19, 2021

Mr. Keith Bray
Brooklyn Borough Commissioner
New York City Department of Traffic
16 Court St.
Suite 1620
Brooklyn, NY 11241

Dear Commissioner Bray:

The Park Slope Civic Council appreciates your enthusiastic participation in the September 23rd Zoom meeting on Grand Army Plaza Traffic Calming convened by the Plaza Street Block Association. Your supportive comments on pedestrian and bike safety and traffic improvement, as well as those of your staff, were well received and much appreciated by all of us in attendance.

As you may know, the Civic Council was very involved with the Grand Army Plaza Coalition in the lengthy process that led to a traffic redesign in GAP in 2011. That redesign implemented significant improvements in traffic safety that have benefitted drivers, pedestrians and cyclists alike.

It has now been ten years since that redesign, and we believe it is time for a new traffic study of the Plaza to assess current conditions and determine whether further improvements should be made. It is particularly important that this study include the Plaza Street ring road and its intersections. We were heartened to hear your and your staff's support for such a study and wish to express our support for any funding that may be required. Please let us know if it would be helpful for us to communicate with other City officials.

As that study proposal moves forward, we strongly advocate at least interim interventions to address safety issues at a few known problem intersections, such as the intersection of Berkeley Place and Plaza Street West, the site of a recent motorist vs. pedestrian and child-in-stroller accident.

We look forward to working with you and your staff on these concerns as we work toward a safer life in our exhilarating but still hazardous Grand Army Plaza.

Very truly yours,

Timothy Gilles
President

Kenneth Stevens, Chair
Livable Streets Committee

The Park Slope Civic Council was founded in 1896 as the South Brooklyn Board of Trade and incorporated in 1938.