

Manhattan Attorney Urges City Leaders to Follow through on Pedestrian Safety Study Recommendations

David Resnick, of David Resnick & Associates, P.C., says the recommendations set out in the landmark New York City Pedestrian Safety Study & Action Plan would build more awareness of pedestrians and greatly improve their safety on city streets.

New York, NY (<u>PRWEB</u>) September 10, 2010 -- David Resnick, a <u>Manhattan personal injury lawyer</u> who focuses on helping pedestrian accident victims, says New York City's transportation officials should act on recommendations made in a recently issued pedestrian safety study.

Hailed by the city's Transportation Department as "the most statistically ambitious of its kind ever undertaken by a U.S. city," the New York City Pedestrian Safety Study & Action Plan examines eight years of data about traffic crashes that have caused serious injuries or fatalities to pedestrians in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, the Bronx and Staten Island.

In addition to identifying the underlying causes for <u>pedestrian accidents and injuries</u>, the study sets out an "action plan" for making the city's streets safer for foot traffic.

"This report provides an excellent blueprint for reducing New York City pedestrian accidents," says Resnick, whose law firm, David Resnick & Associates, P.C., represents pedestrians who have been struck by cars, cabs, taxis, buses, trucks, motorcycles and bicycles.

"Following through on this report's recommendations would make technical changes that would improve pedestrian safety," Resnick says. "It would also increase overall awareness of pedestrians."

Although the study finds that 2009 was the safest year on record in New York City, with traffic fatalities down 35 percent from 2001, Resnick says the study also indicates that the city's congested streets remain dangerous.

Pedestrians, who are 10 times more likely to die than a motor vehicle occupant in the event of a crash, accounted for 52 percent of all NYC traffic fatalities from 2005-2009, according to the study. Out of the crashes that killed or seriously injured pedestrians, 27 percent involved a driver's failure to yield and 36 percent involved driver inattention.

Serious pedestrian crashes are about two-thirds more deadly on major street corridors than on smaller local streets, the study says. Manhattan has four times as many pedestrians killed or severely injured per mile of street compared to the city's other four boroughs.

Based on the study's findings, the Department of Transportation recommends:

- Installing pedestrian countdown signals at 1,500 intersections;
- Making "dangerous corridor" re-engineering changes to 60 miles of streets per year;
- Re-engineering 20 intersections along major two-way Manhattan streets;
- Launching a 20 mph zone pilot program in at least 75 residential neighborhoods; and
- Removing curb parking to improve left-turn visibility near intersections of targeted Manhattan avenues.



"This study shows the need to improve pedestrian safety in New York City, and now we have well-defined ways to accomplish that goal," Resnick says.

About David Resnick & Associates, P.C.

David Resnick & Associates, P.C. provides professional and compassionate legal assistance to victims of injury and negligence. Founded in 1998, the firm is experienced at handling multiple types of injury and negligence cases in New York City, including motor vehicle accidents, hit and run, bicycle accidents, pedestrian injuries, trip and fall, construction accidents, premises liability and other kinds of personal injury and wrongful death claims.

The firm's pedestrian accident lawyers serve clients in Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island, the Bronx and all of New York City. Mr. Resnick can be reached at (212) 279-2000 or through his website's <u>online contact</u> form.

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