



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

May 15, 2014

The Honorable Ralph Ekstrand
Village of Farmingdale
361 Main Street
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Dear Mayor Ekstrand:

I was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic accident on Conklin Street in Farmingdale that has claimed the lives of five local teenagers. My thoughts and prayers are with the family members in their time of loss and the entire community which has been shaken by this tragedy.

As a father of three daughters who drive, I know all too well the importance of keeping our roads safe. Local law enforcement agencies are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding this terrible incident, and the State stands ready to offer any assistance they may require.

While that investigation remains ongoing, it is clear that more must be done to help ensure the safety of drivers and residents in the area around Conklin Street. In response, this week the State installed two speed control trailers along Conklin Street (one in each direction) to inform motorists of their speed and encourage them to obey posted speed limits.

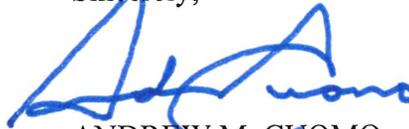
Enforcement and education are important elements that need to be addressed as well to support any engineering of the roadway. As students come home from college and high schools wind down their academic years with proms and other celebrations, it is important to remind our young people of the responsibility of driving and the dangers of speeding, drag racing, distracted driving (texting, cell phone use) and drinking. With that in mind, I have directed the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee to work with traffic boards and police departments from both Nassau and Suffolk Counties to review ongoing efforts and recommend further courses of action that will also take into account the findings of the current investigation.

My administration is also evaluating further courses of action to prevent future accidents, including the installation of new radar technology that utilize traffic signals to help control motorists' speeds. When speeding vehicles are identified by these radar devices, a connected traffic signal will switch to red, forcing the driver to come to a stop. The State is planning to implement the first of these devices at the corner of Conklin and Walnut Streets – near the site of Saturday's tragic accident – in the coming weeks.

We are also reviewing the possibility of modifying lane configurations on Conklin Street to add further traffic calming measures. This includes reducing lane widths or eliminating excess lanes, increasing median widths, creating turn lanes, and adding additional traffic signals.

Keeping New York's young drivers safe is critically important. In this year's budget, we increased distracted driving penalties for new drivers to encourage greater responsibility and safety on the road. My administration will continue to take every available action we can through engineering, education, and enforcement to avoid tragic accidents like this in the future.

Sincerely,



ANDREW M. CUOMO