

(Insert Date)

Hon. James Vacca
NYC Council Member
NYC Transportation Committee, Chair
250 Broadway, Suite 1749
New York, NY 10007

Dear Council Member Vacca,

We write to express our concerns about the proliferation of ill-maintained and poorly located newsracks cluttering New York City sidewalks. From Queens to Manhattan to the Bronx, this quality of life nuisance is prevalent throughout our city. We support the oversight hearing on the newsracks law that Councilmember Daniel R. Garodnick has requested, and we ask that it be scheduled immediately by the New York City Council Transportation Committee so we can start working toward the solution. We look to you, as chair of the committee, to help work toward the solution.

The appearance of newsracks has further deteriorated largely due to the Newsrack Law amendment of 2004, which removed the requirement to maintain newsracks free of dirt, graffiti or stickers. Furthermore, the New York City Department of Transportation, which regulates street furniture, has not effectively enforced newsrack regulations because of deficiencies in the current law and lack of personnel.

There is strong support from across the city for improved policies to maintain newsracks and regulate their placement. We request that you make this a priority for the Transportation Committee.

Sincerely,

(Insert your signature)

Cc.:

Hon. Christine C. Quinn, New York City Council Speaker
Hon. Daniel R. Garodnick, New York City Council Member
Hon. Jessica S. Lappin, New York City Council Member
Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, New York City Council Member
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