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PRESS RELEASE

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**Imminent Arrival of Santa's Sleigh Threatens to
Set off Noisy Car Alarms throughout NYC**

The Holiday Season brings a host of new stresses to an already frenetic New York City. Sleigh bells - and cash registers - ring, sidewalks overflow with the rush of eager shoppers, and thousands of tourists pour into town daily to enjoy Christmas in New York. But along with the extra excitement are thousands of extra cars, and the extra exasperation that they bring to the city: blaring car alarms.

Council Member Eva Moskowitz may deliver her promise for a quieter New York after the Holidays, but she has committed herself to tackling this vexing quality of life problem through the Audible Car Alarm Control Act (Intro 448). The bill would ban the sale, installation, and use of noisy car alarms in New York City. It would also establish a mechanism by which individuals can report car alarm-related noise complaints to the NYPD. Moskowitz has joined forces with Council Member John Liu of Queens, Chair of the Council's Transportation Committee, in forging a bill to deal with these alarms.

The ineffectiveness of car alarms as theft prevention devices has been well-documented by insurance companies, government agencies, and advocacy groups such as Transportation Alternatives, who published a detailed report on this issue in the spring of 2003 entitled "Alarmingly Useless."

- 95% of alarms are set off by vibrations from passing vehicles or problems with the car's electrical system.
- Progressive Insurance Company has found that only 1% of respondents say they would call the police upon hearing a car alarm.
- 83% of the calls to the NYPD's quality of life hotline in 2001 were noise complaints. Of those, car alarm complaints were always near the top of the list.

Moskowitz's legislation was initially heard in the Environmental Protection Committee on Wednesday, June 11th. Since that time, there has been a widespread level of support for the concepts contained in the bill. "This is a citywide problem that affects all New Yorkers," Moskowitz said. She continued, "The fact is that car alarms are a direct and pointless assault on our quality of life that we all have to endure nightly."

Moskowitz further commented that the impetus for her bill came primarily from her constituents, "as well as my own experiences as a New Yorker." Since its introduction, her office has received countless enthusiastic calls in support of the legislation. Mr. Paul Poux of Stuyvesant Town commented that he deals with the constant noise of these devices is by "joking with colleagues about what different birds the screeching alarms sound like." Lower Manhattan resident Claudia Farb, who claimed to hear "at least 3 or 4 alarms... every night," recounted a story of a crowd of irate neighbors gathering on Houston Street at 5 AM to try and stop an alarm from going off.

The bill awaits a second hearing in the Spring legislative session of 2004.

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