



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

August 4, 2008

Robert M Morgenthau
New York County District Attorney
1 Hogan Place
New York, NY 10013

Dear District Attorney Morgenthau,

We write to respectfully request that you drop the charges against Christopher Long, which include attempted assault, resisting arrest, and disorderly conduct. We strongly believe these charges are unwarranted, based on video evidence and first person accounts of the incident on the night of July 25, 2008 between Mr. Long and the officer named in the case.

There has been a history of police harassment of cyclists, especially during the monthly Manhattan Critical Mass group bicycle ride. Most often, these attacks are unprovoked and aggressive, and the behavior of police towards cyclists is anything but the courtesy, professionalism, and respect on which NYPD prides itself. The recent incident involving Mr. Long is a particularly disturbing example of the NYPD's attitude towards cyclists, one that happened to be caught on video tape.

Therefore we urge you to drop charges against Long and to investigate the NYPD's policies towards cyclists, specifically during Critical Mass rides.

Sincerely,

Rosie Mendez

G. Oliver Koppell

Melissa Mark-Viverito

Letitia James

Gale Brewer

Thomas White

Diana Reyna

Charles Barron

Sara M. Gonzalez

Alan J. Gerson

James Sanders, Jr.

Inez Dickens