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NEWS FROM THE 11TH DISTRICT

BARRAGA: AGGRESSIVE DRIVING ON LONG ISLAND

What is it with Long Island drivers that many of them are so aggressive behind the wheel putting their lives as well as other drivers, who obey the traffic laws, in jeopardy of serious injury or death? What is the mindset of these people that warrants such dangerous behavior that in an instant can forever change the lives of so many? Why are so many doing 40 MPH in a 20 MPH school zone when school is in session; doing 50 MPH on a town road that clearly says 30 MPH; traveling 80 MPH on Sunrise Highway when the speed limit is 55 MPH; tearing down Southern State Parkway at 85 MPH when the designated speed is 55 MPH or jumping from lane to lane on the Long Island Expressway at 75 MPH and riding ten feet or less behind the car in front of them to force that driver into another lane?

What is so important that so many are willing to risk their very lives with excessive speeding and aggressive driving? You're late for work, you're late for an appointment, your kids are late for school, you have to go shopping – YOU'RE DEAD – the wake is two days and you're in the ground in four – Goodbye Husband, Wife, Children, Parents, Grandparents.

The real solution for correcting aggressive driving and excessive speeding does not lie with having more police on the roads, or the amount of fines and points on a license. The real solution lies with people taking responsibility for their own actions to ensure individual safety and that of their fellow drivers. Until that happens, injuries and deaths will continue because of aggressive drivers.

As I write this piece I am looking out of my District Office at Sunrise Highway – it seems like a slow day with cars only exceeding the speed limit by 15 to 20 MPH. They all must be running late for something very important.