



A Memorandum for District 4  
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## **Illegally Parked Tour Buses in Dag Hammarskjold Plaza**

Located just north of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold Plaza is a 1.5-acre municipal park occupying the entire south side of the block between 1st and 2nd Avenues on East 47th Street in Turtle Bay. It is a convenient meeting place for neighbors and students, as well as a popular destination for U.N. visitors. However, Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, a local community group, has reported seeing dozens of tour buses each day illegally parking and idling next to the plaza while passengers visit the UN.

The presence of these buses poses a number of challenges for the community. 47<sup>th</sup> Street is a narrow, one-way street that is already congested with a taxi stand and Citibike docking station outside of the Trump World Tower building. When large buses turn off of 1st Avenue onto 47<sup>th</sup> Street, they cause a bottleneck which is only made worse when they park and block traffic. Additionally, idling buses pollute the air and are shown to cause significant respiratory and cardiovascular disease,<sup>1</sup> with the highest risk for children and seniors. These buses are also a source of unnecessary noise pollution in the community, which can cause negative physiological and psychological

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<sup>1</sup>"Diesel Soot Health Impacts." *Clean Air Task Force*. N.p., 1 Jan. 1979. Web. [http://www.catf.us/methane/black\\_carbon/diesel/dieselhealth/](http://www.catf.us/methane/black_carbon/diesel/dieselhealth/)

consequences and significantly reduce young students' vocabulary retention.<sup>2</sup> This is particularly concerning as there are three schools within one block of Dag Hammerskjold Plaza and the students often use the plaza for outside activities.

When elected to the City Council, I will demand that the parking ban on 47<sup>th</sup> Street be enforced. Rather than skirting our local laws and polluting our public spaces with exhaust fumes and unnecessary noise, tour companies must use designated drop-off and parking locations. Cracking down on this problem will ensure children in nearby schools and neighbors in the community can once again use and enjoy the park safely.

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<sup>2</sup>Khazan, Olga. "How Noise Pollution Impairs Learning." *The Atlantic*. Atlantic Media Company, 21 July 2016. Web. <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/07/toddlers-and-noise/492164/>