

June 21, 2010

Dear Assembly Member Joan Millman,

The undersigned below would like to ask for your assistance in a matter of great concern to us as residents of Dumbo.

Dumbo has become a great weekend destination for tourists and neighbors alike. Our beautiful Brooklyn Bridge Park is a top destination for wedding pictures and any given weekend you can find multiple wedding parties posing for photos in our scenic park.

While we welcome everyone to enjoy our fabulous views, we are very concerned for the safety issue this traffic creates. As the neighborhood has grown, both in residents and visitors, we have in some ways become a victim of our popularity. The block of Main Street (between Water + Plymouth) becomes overrun with double, tripled parked limos every weekend. At some times, the block is impassable both to pedestrians and vehicles.

We believe this is a definitive example of an accident waiting to happen. We implore you to help resolve this before one of our kids suffers a preventable tragedy.

The safety issues are basically twofold:

-The many families, both from the neighborhood and elsewhere in Brooklyn, that enjoy the park use this block to enter the park. Children are often crossing the street when these limos are blocking their path, charging around the corner, or driving the wrong way on the one-way section of Plymouth for example. Some of these limos are super-sized, and they back up, and generally maneuver in such a way that they cannot possibly see a small child in their path or behind them.

- The limousines and related vehicles block traffic, park haphazardly, and have no consideration for the residents of the area trying to go about their business. Legally parked cars are often blocked in for hours at a time. As mentioned above, the street is often impassable.

Additionally, the quality of life issue significantly impacts the residents of 1 Main and 30 Main Street. The area in front of 1 Main is partially designated no parking. Residents use the building front to briefly load and unload personal items (groceries, luggage etc) from their vehicles. As these limos and vehicles are double parked in front of the building, residents are forced into the street (where they are ticketed) or unable to access their own building.

Our residents have called 311 on occasion and have been told that officers are loathe to ticket vehicles related to wedding day events for fear of 'ruining their special day'. However they are very quick to ticket neighborhood residents who are trying to do their regular business and get caught in the melee.

Here is what we suggest. There is another entrance to the park in a more industrial part of Dumbo that can provide a great staging area for these visiting vehicles. John Street between Pearl and Adams is a low traffic, easily accessible area that provides direct Brooklyn Bridge Park access via the Plymouth/Adams entrance.

As our district representative, we are asking for your immediate attention to this matter so as to protect the families of Dumbo as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

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