

September 13, 2018

The Honorable James O'Neill
Commissioner, New York City Police Department
1 Police Plaza
New York, New York 10038

Re: Dangerous Condition: Private School Bus Utilizing Public Transit Center

Dear Commissioner O'Neill;

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to seek your assistance in resolving a problem at the Eltingville Transit Center (ETC) on Staten Island.

I have been notified by a number of my constituents, who commute from the ETC on a regular basis, that each weekday morning a yellow bus uses the facility as a pick-up location to transport students to a private school in New Jersey. That school is Pillars Preparatory Academy in South River, New Jersey (see attached photo). I am requesting that the NYPD prevent this private bus from utilizing this facility.

Eyewitness reports indicate that this bus blocks incoming vehicles, blocks lanes, thereby preventing access to parking spots, and causes a hazard not only to drivers, but to the children boarding the bus.

While I would never want to deprive a child access to the school of his or her choice, safety must be my primary concern. The ETC, as you no doubt know, is an extremely busy transportation hub each weekday morning, and having a private bus, not authorized by any New York State or New York City agency, utilize the facility to pick up children is simply unacceptable.

This is a dangerous situation, one which I hope can be rectified before we are forced to deal with a tragedy.

Thank you for your kind attention, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require more information.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

P.S.

PC, this location is inherently chaotic and these kids are being placed in harm's way.

