

## **Attorney and Entrepreneur Phillip Tavel Announces Candidacy for Seattle City Council District 1**

WEST SEATTLE - Today, West Seattle attorney and entrepreneur Phillip Tavel announced his candidacy for Seattle City Council District 1, representing the West Seattle and South Park communities.

“For years, we’ve seen the interests of our district take a back seat to special interests in the rest of the city, resulting in increased traffic, insufficient transit, and skyrocketing housing costs,” says Tavel. “The only special interests I’m loyal to are the residents of West Seattle and South Park.”

Tavel believes we need to manage existing projects more responsibly. “I will ask the questions up front, before problems arise, and I’m not afraid to make tough decisions for our community and our city,” says Tavel. An immediate opportunity is correcting the course of the Alaska Way Viaduct replacement tunnel, which the state now says will make downtown commuter traffic worse when it is completed.

“The only thing worse than making a multi-million dollar mistake is making a multi-billion dollar mistake,” says Tavel. “Even beyond the current problems, the risks associated with continuing this tunnel and leaving the aging viaduct up are too great. The tunnel contractor has a well-documented history of not paying for cost-overruns and the potential costs to taxpayers are too high. Stopping the existing tunnel project is the most responsible decision we can make. The remaining project money should be used to increase transit and implement a lower-cost alternative that actually delivers on the promise to reduce traffic.”

Tavel’s background in technology, education, law and as an entrepreneur gives him the right experience to enact policies that continue growth and innovation while expanding opportunities for everyone in our district.

“We have amazing resources here in West Seattle and South Park.

We have great people, businesses, and schools. We don't need to cross a bridge to experience the best of Seattle. It's time to develop our community the way we want and not the way non-residents of West Seattle and South Park want. ”

Tavel resides in West Seattle with his wife and son. After college, he spent a year teaching high school physics and then went on work as a Science Education Analyst for the Division of Undergraduate Education at the National Science Foundation. After law school, Tavel moved to West Seattle and a year later co-founded Interactive Imagination, an entertainment company where he co-created Magi-Nation™, a successful collectible card game, which became an award-winning GameBoy™ game, and eventually an animated TV series. Australian game development company Blue Tongue Entertainment then hired Tavel away for two years to be their Creative Director. In 2004, Tavel returned home to West Seattle where he went to work for DeVry University as a National Curriculum Manager, developing a new Bachelor's degree program in Game and Simulation Programming. In 2006, Tavel began his career as a trial lawyer working for the Associated Counsel for the Accused, and is in private practice today, primarily doing trial work. He has also become a King County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children. Tavel has been a volunteer for several West Seattle organizations and has been running the largest weekly trivia night in West Seattle for the past 8 years on Wednesday nights at Talarico's Pizzeria