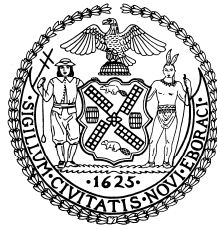


Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York **Manhattan Community Board 8**

March 18, 2010

Hon. Adrian Benepe
Commissioner
Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 Manhattan Community Board 8 passed the following resolution by a vote of 38 in favor, 2 opposed and 1 abstention:

WHEREAS, the Queensboro Oval ball field under the Queensboro Bridge at York Avenue between 59th and 60th Street is currently operated as a public ball field in the summer months and a fee-based tennis facility in the winter months and,

WHEREAS, the Parks Department proposes to extend this commercial use as a tennis facility to the summer months, thus eliminating the public use of Queensboro Oval Park as a ball field, and

WHEREAS, the Queensboro Oval Park is home to the only ball field in a city park in CB8M, and

WHEREAS due to a modification of the NYC Zoning Resolution in 1989, the Queensboro Oval became the subject of a Restrictive Declaration between and among the Department of City Planning, NYC DP&R, Community Board 8 and the property owner of the site at First Avenue between 60 and 61st Street extending down towards York Avenue, and

WHEREAS the Restrictive Declaration clearly states that there should be a “program for the substantial enhancement of the Bridge Park at the Queensboro Oval”, and

WHEREAS the modified Restrictive Declaration for the Milstein/Brodsky site, developers of the Queensboro Oval, clearly states they are required to “upgrade this necessary open space in the neighborhood”, and

WHEREAS the Milstein/Brodsky developers spent a substantial amount in capital funds to upgrade the Oval and then provided \$685,000 to a NYC Department of Parks & Recreation Trust and Agency account for the maintenance of the Oval, and

WHEREAS Community Board 8M opposes in general the conversion of public parks spaces to commercial use,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8M unequivocally opposes extending the use of the Queensboro Oval field to a year-round franchise tennis facility, and maintains that its use as a ball field must continue uninterrupted for four months a year.

Please advise us of any action taken with regard to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Ludorf
Chair

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee

cc: Honorable Michael Bloomberg, Mayor of the City of New York
Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Carolyn Maloney, 14th Congressional District Representative
Liz Kruger, NYS Senator, 26th Senatorial District
Micah Kellner, Assemblyman, 65th Assembly District
Jonathan Bing, Assemblyman, 73rd Assembly District
Jessica Lappin, NYC Council Speaker, 5th Council District
Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District