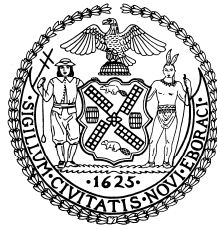


Nicholas D. Viest
Chair

Latha Thompson
District Manager



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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

April 23, 2012

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

Re: Discussion of the Parks Department's plans to extend until mid-June a tennis facility's use of the Queensboro Oval at East 59th St.

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, April 18, 2012, Manhattan Community Board 8 approved the following resolution by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed and 2 abstentions and 1 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS Community Board 8M passed a resolution in February 2010, stating that it unequivocally opposes extending the use of the Queensboro Oval—which is public parkland—to a privately owned year-round franchise tennis facility, and maintains that the Oval must be made available for public use for four contiguous months a year; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. agreed in 2010 to honor THE PUBLIC's desire to maintain the Queensboro Oval Park as a public space for sports leagues and for the use of the community at large for four straight months each year; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. has extended, without prior notice to the community, the terms of a private tennis facility's use of the Queensboro Oval for an additional six weeks each year, thereby shortening the public's ability to use the space by six weeks, and

WHEREAS the Queensboro Oval is typically left in disrepair when the tennis facility dismantles its "bubble" facility; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8, Manhattan, reaffirms its positions stated in its resolution of February, 2010 and urges the Parks Dept. to honor its agreement with the community to maintain the Queensboro Oval as public land for sports teams and the public at large for four contiguous months each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB8M asks the Parks Dept. to compensate the public for six-weeks of lost access to the Queensboro Oval this spring by extending public access to the park by six weeks this fall and revert to the original agreement of four consecutive months starting in 2013, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CB8M urges the Parks Dept. to ensure that the Queensboro oval lessee restore the field to its proper parkland condition after the tennis bubble is dismantled.

Sincerely,

Nicholas D. Viest
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 Krueger, NYS Senator, 26th Senatorial District
Micah Kellner, Assemblyman, 65th Assembly District
Assembly Member Dan Quart, 73rd Assembly District
Jessica Lappin, NYC Council Speaker, 5th Council District
Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner