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

April 16, 2015

Hon. Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver
New York City Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal
Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Re: Public Access to the Queensboro Oval Park after the City's Contract with Sutton East Tennis Club Expires

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, Manhattan Community Board 8 approved the following resolution by a vote of 31 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 not voting for cause.

WHEREAS studies have shown that the Community Board 8-Manhattan area has among the least public open space of any district in New York City, despite the district's large and growing population; and **WHEREAS** the Queensboro Oval Park is a sizable space that could be used for a multitude of recreational purposes, from team softball playing to quiet enjoyment by individuals; and

WHEREAS this public open space has been privatized for use as a tennis facility for most of the year, making it unavailable for general public use during this time; and

WHEREAS in 2012, the City further reduced the public's already limited access to this space by six weeks, despite much strong public objection to the move; and

WHEREAS a more equitable sharing of the Queensboro Oval between winter tennis players and the public at large dictates that the park should be accessible to the general public for at least six months per year; and

WHEREAS the site's current tennis club operator leaves the park in poor condition when temporarily vacating it in summertime; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan, urges the Parks Dept. to ensure that any new contract for private use of the Queensboro Oval limit that usage to a maximum of six months per year. For the remainder of the year--a minimum of six months--the park should be open and accessible to the general public,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any private organization using the Queensboro Oval Park be required to keep it in pristine condition--and make any needed clean-ups and repairs to the site, including when it vacates the area. Failure to comply--and/or any infringement of the organization's maximum 180-day usage of the park--should result in liquidated damages as spelled out in the City's contract with that organization.

Sincerely,

James G. Clynes
Chairman

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee

cc: Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Carolyn Maloney, 14th Congressional District Representative
Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 26th Senatorial District
Assembly Member Dan Quart, 73rd Assembly District
Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 65th District
Ben Kallos, NYC Council Speaker, 5th Council District
Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner