

Jacqueline Ludorf
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The City of New York Manhattan Community Board 8

June 17, 2011

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

Re: Central Park Pedestrian Paths Changed to Pedestrian/Bicycle Use

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

At the Full Board meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2011, Manhattan Community Board 8 voted on the following resolution by a vote of 31 in favor, 13 opposed and 1 abstention:

WHEREAS the Central Park Conservancy has proposed an experiment, allowing bicyclists to ride on certain pedestrian paths in Central Park, and

WHEREAS such an experiment is not necessary because bicyclists routinely ride on the Central Park paths and have done so for many years, and

WHEREAS the paths are not wide enough to safely accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists, and

WHEREAS Central Park is only a half mile wide, and

WHEREAS minimizing the risks to pedestrians on shared paths would require that bicyclists follow the laws, rules, and regulations; and that they ride slowly and with care to avoid hitting pedestrians, and

WHEREAS there are numerous signs throughout Central Park saying "NO BIKE RIDING ON PATHS," and

WHEREAS bicyclists routinely ride on the paths, past the above signs, and

WHEREAS bicyclists rarely, if ever, walk their bicycles on the paths, and

WHEREAS there are red lights at the pedestrian crossings on the circular drive, and

WHEREAS bicyclists rarely, if ever, stop at those red lights, and

WHEREAS there are more than a dozen vehicle entrances and exits to the park drives where it is possible for bicyclists to enter, traverse, and exit the park legally, and

WHEREAS it is possible for bicyclists to traverse the park directly and legally, on roads, at 102nd Street and 72nd Street, and

WHEREAS the current situation amply demonstrates the fact that virtually all bicyclists ignore the laws, rules, and regulations – despite the presence of adequate signage and red traffic lights, and

WHEREAS those charged with enforcing the laws, rules, and regulations governing bicycling in Central Park rarely, if ever, do so, even when infractions are pointed out to them by pedestrians, including CB-8M board members,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that Community Board 8-M recommends disapproval of any proposal to allow bicycle riding on the paths of Central Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8-M recommends that the current the laws, rules, and regulations governing bicycling in Central Park be rigorously enforced.

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 Krueger, 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