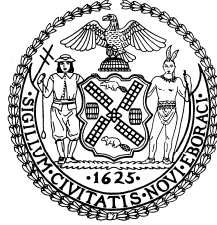


**James G. Clynes**  
**Chairman**

**Latha Thompson**  
**District Manager**



**505 Park Avenue**  
**Suite 620**  
**New York, N.Y. 10022**  
**(212) 758-4340**  
**(212) 758-4616 (Fax)**  
**info@cb8m.com - E-Mail**  
**www.cb8m.com – Website**

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

July 21, 2015

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

### **Re: Further Issues with Queensboro Oval Park**

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At its July meeting, the full CB8M board voted to accept the following resolution passed by the Parks Committee at its July 9, 2015 meeting.

### **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS** the Sutton East Tennis Club, which leases the Queensboro Oval for most of the year, has repeatedly failed to return this E. 59<sup>th</sup> St. park to good and usable condition for the public when the club removes its tennis bubble in summer months; and

**WHEREAS** such negligence violates Sutton East Tennis' contract with the City, which requires such maintenance; and

**WHEREAS** the unsightly, and worsening, condition that Sutton East Tennis annually leaves this park prevents the public from accessing this space in the minimal time it can do so; and

**WHEREAS** CB8M has repeatedly sought to have this and other Queensboro Oval problems resolved; and

**WHEREAS** a July ruling by the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court may make it illegal to privatize public parks in this state without Albany's approval. In the July ruling, which may apply to other New York City parks, an Appellate Court ruled that work on a planned shopping mall in a parking lot, which is part of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, violates the state's public trust doctrine and therefore must stop, and;

**WHEREAS** according to press reports, this ruling means that “parkland in New York State cannot be alienated from public use by local governments without Albany’s consent;” and

**WHEREAS** earlier this year CB8M passed a resolution urging the Parks Dept. not to allow any private entity to rent the Queensboro Oval park for more than six months a year after the contract with Sutton East Tennis expires in 2017; and

**WHEREAS** CB8M has subsequently concluded that this earlier CB8M request must be amended to take into account recent developments. These include: the worsening condition left by Sutton East Tennis when it temporarily leaves the space; and the July ruling by the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court, which may bar privatization of New York’s public parks without Albany’s approval, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8, Manhattan, strongly urges the Parks Dept. to return the Queensboro Oval Park to the public full-time at the termination of the City’s current lease with Sutton East Tennis. No further commercial use of the property should be allowed.

Sincerely,

James G. Clynes  
Chairman

Susan Evans and Margaret Price  
Co-Chairs, Parks Committee

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor of the City of New York  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Carolyn Maloney, 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District Representative  
Hon. Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District  
Hon. Dan Quart, 73<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District  
Hon. Rebecca Seawright, 76<sup>th</sup> District  
Hon. Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5<sup>th</sup> Council District  
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4<sup>th</sup> Council District  
William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner