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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

September 22, 2016

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

RE: The City's Proposal to Continue Privatizing the Queensboro Oval, starting in 2017 and its Plan to Issue an RFP for a Concessionaire.

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At its September 21, 2016 Full Board meeting, the full CB8M board voted to unanimously adopt the following resolution by a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

WHEREAS the Upper East Side of Manhattan has among the least public parkland of any district in New York City, despite its very large and growing population; and

WHEREAS the Queensboro Oval, a public park located on York Avenue at 59th Street, has long been privatized for more than 9 months a year, preventing the public from accessing this park most of the year; and

WHEREAS the City's license with the current concessionaire at this park expires in August 2017; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan, with the strong support of elected officials, Community Board 6-Manhattan and hundreds of members of the public, have been pressing the Parks Dept. to deprivatize the Queensboro Oval and return it to the public year-round when the City's current license expires; and

WHEREAS Parks Dept. officials told Community Board 8 they are unaware of any other New York City public parks that are similarly licensed to a private concessionaire; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. soon plans to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an outside organization to operate the Oval after the license with the current concessionaire expires next year—thereby continuing to privatize the Queensboro Oval park; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan, and many elected officials and members of the public, adamantly oppose the City's intent to continue privatizing the Queensboro Oval Park beyond 2017 and its plan to soon issue an RFP for the operation of the Oval, starting next year; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan strongly urges the Parks Dept. to return the Queensboro Oval Park to the public year-round, starting in 2017 and to abandon its near-term plans to issue a Request for Proposals for a concessionaire to develop, operate and maintain facilities at the Queensboro Oval Park, starting in 2017.

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, 12th Congressional District Representative
Hon. Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Hon. Dan Quart, 73rd Assembly District
Hon. Rebecca Seawright, 76th Assembly District
Hon. Daniel Garodnick, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Hon. Ben Kallos, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner