

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

October 20, 2016

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

RE: Update on the Status of the Queensboro Oval Project

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At its October 19, 2016 Full Board meeting, the full CB8M board voted to adopt the following resolution by a vote of 40 in favor, 1 opposed and 0 abstentions.

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan, local elected officials and the Upper East Side community at large have strongly urged the Parks Dept. to convert the now-privatized Queensboro Oval Park to a year-round public park, starting in mid-2017; and

WHEREAS the community applauds the Parks Dept. for holding a recent meeting with local elected officials and some CB8M members to discuss the community's desires, as well as the Parks Dept.'s plans, for the future of the Queensboro Oval Park; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept.'s current plans for the Queensboro Oval call for issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for an operator of the Oval after the current license expires; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan and many local elected officials have strongly objected to plans for an RFP for the future operation of the Oval, since that move would lead to the continued privatization of the Queensboro Oval Park; and

WHEREAS the Parks Dept. has raised the possibility of re-licensing the Oval on a temporary, year-by-year basis, which conflicts with the desires of the community; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan applauds the Parks Dept. for holding a recent meeting with local elected officials and some CB8M members on the future of the Queensboro Oval Park. The Board also thanks elected officials who support the community's desire to return the Oval to the public year-round, starting next year.

But the Board urges the Parks Dept. to abandon plans to issue an RFP for the operation of this space and opposes any plan to re-license the park on a year-by-year basis. The Board remains adamant that the Queensboro Oval Park should be de-privatized and made open to the public full-time, and year-round, immediately after the City's current license with the occupant of this space--Sutton East Tennis—expires in August 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