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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

January 19, 2017

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

RE: Three Parks Dept. Options for Future Use of the Queensboro Oval

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At its January 18, 2017 Full Board meeting, the full CB8M board voted to adopt the following resolution by a unanimous vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the City's license with the Sutton East Tennis Club to occupy the Queensboro Oval Park for much of the year expires in August, 2017; and

WHEREAS CB8M has repeatedly asked the Parks Dept. to end the privatization of the Queensboro Oval Park and return it to the public permanently, year-round, starting in August 2017; and

WHEREAS the very heavily populated Upper East Side of Manhattan urgently needs additional parkland, which the Queensboro Oval would provide; and

WHEREAS the Upper East Side of Manhattan has among the least public open space of any district in the City of New York; and

WHEREAS the City's Parks Dept. has provided elected officials, CB8M and the community with three proposals for the future use of the Queensboro Oval, including: 1) a plan for a multi-sports turf field on the site; 2) a proposal that would provide for both tennis courts and a shortened multi-use field at the park; 3) a proposal for using a concessionaire to manage and maintain the space and provide fee-based programming in fall and winter; and

WHEREAS none of these proposals include provisions for returning the Oval to the public full-time, year round, starting in August 2017, when the license with the Oval's current concessionaire expires; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan reiterates its firm position that the Queensboro Oval Park must be returned to the public full-time, year-round, beginning with the August 2017 conclusion of the NYC Parks Department's contract with the Sutton East Tennis Club, which now occupies the Queensboro Oval.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan recommends using the deprivatized Queensboro Oval as a multi-use recreational park that accommodates various sports. This would be as conceptualized--but not limited to--the Parks Dept.'s Option One for the future use of the Queensboro Oval.

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, NYC Parks & Recreation
Steve Simon, Manhattan Chief-of-Staff, NYC Parks & Recreation