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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

March 16, 2017

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

RE: Funding Requests to Convert the Queensboro Oval to a Multi-Use Public Park

Dear Commissioner Silver:

At its March 15, 2017 Full Board meeting, the full CB8M board voted to adopt the following resolution by a unanimous vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

RESOLUTIONS (A and B)

A. Request of City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Ben Kallos, representing Council District 5:

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan has among the least parkland of any district in New York City, despite its huge and growing population; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan (CB8M), as well as CB6M and much of the Upper East Side community, have strongly urged the City to de-privatize the Queensboro Oval Park to allow this space—already funded by the City’s taxpayers—to become a year-round public park; and

WHEREAS the City’s Parks Dept. has stated that it requires obtaining full funding before such a conversion of the Queensboro Oval could take place; and

WHEREAS the City’s Parks Dept. has cited a cost of more than \$6 million to convert the Queensboro Oval to a multi-use public park; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan asks New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and City Council Member Ben Kallos to designate \$6 million from the City’s fiscal 2018 budget to ensure that the Queensboro Oval is quickly converted to a multi-use park that is open year-round to the public.

B. Request of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer:

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan has among the least parkland of any district in New York City, despite its huge and growing population; and

WHEREAS Community Board 8-Manhattan (CB8M), as well as CB6M and much of the Upper East Side community, have strongly urged the City to de-privatize the Queensboro Oval Park to allow this space—already funded by the City’s taxpayers—to become a year-round public park; and

WHEREAS the City’s Parks Dept. has stated that it requires obtaining full funding before such a conversion of the Queensboro Oval could take place; and

WHEREAS the City’s Parks Dept. has cited a cost of more than \$6 million to convert the Queensboro Oval to a multi-use public park; and

WHEREAS CB8M is seeking \$6 million of funding from the New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Council Member Kallos, but needs an additional \$4 million, since the City’s park projects often face cost overruns after a project has begun; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Board 8-Manhattan asks Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer to designate \$4 million from the City’s fiscal 2018 budget to ensure that the Queensboro Oval is quickly converted to a multi-use park that is open year-round to the public.

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. Melissa Mark-Viverito, NYC Council Speaker
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