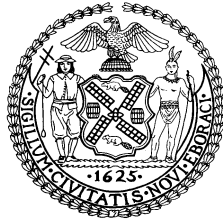


**Alida Camp**  
**Chair**

**Will Brightbill**  
**District Manager**



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**The City of New York**  
**Community Board 8 Manhattan**  
**Community Dog Forum, hosted by the Parks and Waterfront Committee**  
New York Blood Center  
Auditorium  
January 31, 2019 at 6:30 PM

**Community Board Members (Present):** Alida Camp, Tricia Shimamura, Barry Schneider

**Community Board Public Members (Present):** Judy Schneider

**Parks Department:** Mark Vaccaro and Ashley Kuenneke

**1. Deborah Zingale, Assistant to the Commissioner, Urban Park Service**

She spoke about the universal signage for parks and dog runs. They are also working on behavioral and socialization sessions to train people about their dogs when at dog runs. Those with emails on sign-in sheets will get a copy of rules under consideration.

**2. Deputy Inspector Edwin Falcon, Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP)**

They are deputized Peace Officers on foot, bike and mobile patrols. Leash should not be more than 6 feet long. The two parks in our district that allow dogs off-leash between 9 pm & 9 am are Central Park and Carl Schurz Park. Issue fines of \$100 for the first time and \$250 for additional times for not picking up poop. The City is putting out poop removal bag dispensers in parks.

**3. Kolthida Johnston, Director of Operations Analysis, NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene**

The department no longer hands out tags for "service" dogs. The City law is all dogs be licensed and they have record of vaccinations. People were present at the forum and registered their dogs. The agencies website will help you find your lost dog. They have health inspectors that can give tickets for not cleaning up your dog poop. This department and the PEP officers work closely.

**Next Q&A segment followed. Some of the issues were:**

- How to designate an area as a dog run?
- Whom do you report dog bites to?
- Has the City considered pet friendly "salt"?
- What is required of "Service" dogs and dogs in general to wear?
- Is it possible to participate in reviewing park Signage?
- There is a need for additional PEP Officers, particularly when new signage is installed.
- More creative solutions for dogs, such as indoor space.
- Ruppert Park, which was an HPD property turned over to Parks: the need for redesign, raising funds and no dogs allowed at this time, were a major source of discussion.
- John Jay Park and the off-leash dogs and homeless encampment was also a major discussion.

The chairs introduced the various experts in the audience for one-on-one discussion: veterinarians, animal care group, trainers and an app video game producer for children about being careful of dog poop.

Dog Treats and Human Treats were enjoyed by all, appropriately.

The discussion will be ongoing on this subject.

Tricia Shimamura and Barry Schneider, Co-Chairs