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**The City of New York  
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

June 28, 2024

Susan M. Donoghue  
Commissioner  
Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Ave  
New York, NY, 10065

**RE: Approval of the Proposed Design for St. Catherine's Park and Ballfield**

Dear Commissioner Donoghue,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on June 26, 2024, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions and 0 not voting for cause:

**WHEREAS** the Department of Parks and Recreation has proposed to reconstruct and refurbish St. Catherine's Park and Ballfield located on First Avenue between 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Streets, and

**WHEREAS** concern was expressed about the height of the fence surrounding the park and requested the fence height be at least six feet high on all sides of the park, and

**WHEREAS** concern was expressed about the safety of children who climb on the sculpture in the park, and

**WHEREAS** concern was express about eliminating the interior gates and the lowering of the height of the chain link fence around the ballfield:

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** Community Board 8 Manhattan approves the proposed design of St. Catherines Park and Ballfield contingent upon the acceptance of the following issues proposed very strongly by the community and police:

- i. Placing a low fence around the sculpture or moving it to another location in the park where it cannot be used for climbing or moving it to another park.
- ii. Keeping interior gates in the park at both 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> Streets to protect small children who use the park and keep them from running out.
- iii. Coordinating with the replacement of the bench plaques as necessary.
- iv. Keeping the height of the chain link fence around the ballfield area at 15 feet.

- v. Reducing the number of basketball courts from six to four and reducing the number of planned pickleball courts from four to three to ensure sufficient room for all players and children who use the ballfield.
- vi. Installing a storage bin for use by the pickleball players in the ballfield.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

*Valerie S. Mason      Felice Farber and Judith Schneider*

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Chair

Felice Farber and Judith Schneider  
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee

cc: Honorable Tricia Shimamura, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Honorable Steve Simon, Chief of Staff to the Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Department of Parks & Recreation  
Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York  
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative  
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District  
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District  
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District  
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District  
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District  
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District  
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District  
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8<sup>th</sup> Council District