



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Hon. Marquis A. Harrison
Chairperson

Shatic Mitchell
District Manager

April 10, 2023

Susan Donoghue
Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
24 West 61st Street
New York, NY 10023

Re: Letter of Support for Good Vibes in the Park

Dear Commissioner Donoghue,

Good Vibes in The Park (GVIP) is a social gathering centering around mental health & affirming safe spaces, joy and relaxation as an affront to injustice. GVIP emerged in 2020 during a time of heightened awareness around inequality and racial reckoning in America, specifically on the human rights injustices of racism and systemic inequities. GVIP with its ethos and intentionality of using the outdoors (parks specifically) as a spatial context for program curation, addresses the need for people of color especially to exist in spaces without constantly facing profiling or repercussions for their existence.

As shared by Harlem residents about GVIP:

“I truly loved the movement meditation and the overall focus of mental health! It was truly one of my favorite parts of Good Vibes in the Park”.

“As we celebrated Juneteenth I had the pleasure of attending a beautiful celebration hosted by Good Vibes in the Park. The event had everything from music, to poetry and to Good Vibes. I'm certainly looking forward to the next and all their events during the year”.

“Black Joy is the ultimate medicine. GVIP has gifted our people a beautiful space, under the sun, in the small amount of nature the city offers, with awesome performances, health and wellness aspects, in a much needed new normal setting”.

Studies indicate high rates of worsening mental health through the pandemic, with higher rates for people of color and depression rising over 10.4% for African-Americans. Numerous attendees have raved about GVIP's overall programming and often listed mental health as their favorite aspect. We have guided meditation, mental health practitioners and numerous other wellness resources at the gathering, all of whom are local and have been doing community work in Harlem for a long time. Filling this community for mental health and wellness is one of the main reasons GVIP is impactful. Additionally, our programming features meditation, singers, poets, performances, visual arts, experiential activations, local vendors and a smorgasbord of activities that makes our Juneteenth celebration as well as the rest of our summer season was impactful. The gathering since inception happens at St. Nicholas Park in Harlem.

Good Vibes in the Park has the support of Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Community Board (have issued a letter of support in the past), over 15 local small businesses and countless other community organizations including Harlem OneStop. What we seek truly is strong support that includes a Letter of Support and resources for funding (monetary or in-kind), so we may continue our Juneteenth and summer programming which is currently in jeopardy.

On May 3, 2023 the Manhattan Community Board 10's General Board voted to approve this letter by a count of 32 YES, 0 NO 0 ABSTAIN, 0 RECUSAL

Manhattan CB10 fully supports the vital community and cultural impact that Good Vibes in the Park provides and considers it a needed event in Harlem.

Sincerely,



Hon. Marquis A. Harrison,
Chairperson Manhattan CB10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10027



Hon. George Harrell
Chair Manhattan CB10
215 W. 125th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10027

cc: Anthony Perez, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Parks
Erica Sopha, Vice President for Park Use & Stewardship, Central Park Conservancy
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President via (e-mail)
Honorable Kristin Richardson Jordan, NYC Council (via e-mail)
Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Congress Member (via e-mail)
Honorable Cordelle Cleare, NY State Senator (via e-mail)
Honorable Inez Dickens, NY State Assembly Member (via e-mail)
Honorable Al Taylor, Assembly District 71 (via e-mail)