



CITY OF NEW YORK MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10

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Hon. Marquis A. Harrison

Chairperson

Minah Whyte

District Manager

April 18, 2025

Council Member Yusef Salaam

New York City Council

Harlem District Office

163 West 125th Street, Suite 7A

New York, NY 10027

Re: Support for the Restoration of 133rd Street–St. Nicholas Playground

Dear Council Member Salaam,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the restoration of the 133rd Street–St. Nicholas Playground in Harlem, on behalf of the Community Board 10 Parks and Recreation Committee. This letter is submitted in collaboration with Community Board 9, as we both recognize the critical importance of this open space in providing our communities with much-needed recreational opportunities and in promoting active, healthy lifestyles for residents of all ages.

Green spaces along the St. Nicholas corridor, including the 133rd Street Playground, are vital to the physical, emotional, and social well-being of our neighborhoods. They not only provide safe, accessible environments for children and families, but also contribute significantly to community cohesion, mental wellness, and public safety.

The 133rd Street–St. Nicholas Playground has long been a cornerstone of community life, particularly for the families and young people who rely on it daily. It is a space where children develop important social and motor skills, where neighbors connect, and where intergenerational memories are made. Its restoration is not only necessary for improved safety and accessibility—it is a public investment in Harlem's future.

As Chair of Community Board 10's Parks and Recreation Committee, I have witnessed firsthand the playground's role as a site of resilience, joy, and belonging. We envision that, through restoration and revitalization, this space will also become a hub for increased programming—such as youth engagement activities, intergenerational events, and public health initiatives.

Together with Community Board 9, we are united in our belief that reinvesting in this playground represents a commitment to equitable development and responsive governance. We urge your support in securing capital funding and prioritizing this project in future budget cycles.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Harlem. We look forward to working closely with your office, the Parks Department, and community stakeholders to ensure the successful restoration of this beloved space.

Sincerely,

Dr. Maurice Franklin

Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee
Manhattan Community Board 10

CC:

Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York

Hon. Kathy Hochul, New York State Governor

Hon. Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senator for New York

Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, U.S. Senator for New York

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressional Representative, 13th District

Hon. Cordell Cleare, Senator, 30th District

Hon. Yusef Salaam, City Council Member, District 9

Hon. Jordan Wright, New York State Assembly Member, 70th Assembly District

Hon. Al Taylor, New York State Assembly Member, 71st Assembly District

Hon. Susan M. Donoghue, Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

Hon. Tricia Shimamura, Manhattan Borough Parks Commissioner