



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

February 27, 2020

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner of NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

**Re: Resolution supporting DDC Project to Replace Payson Playground Fuel Tank.**

Dear Commissioner Silver:

Please be advised that Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed a resolution with 37 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 not voting, at its Tuesday, February 25, 2020, General Meeting, supporting the proposed design of the new above-ground and fuel tank at the Payson Playground and recommending that the New York City Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes up for their review; encouraging the NYC Department of Design & Construction and all NYC agencies to use the most eco-friendly, sustainable energy whenever and wherever possible, and to take sustainability into its designs.

**Whereas:** The Parks Department Park House building at the Payson Playground (269 Dyckman St., opposite Henshaw St.) is heated using fuel stored in an adjacent gallon underground fuel tank, which has an estimated useful life of about 20 years and was installed at least 20 years ago and the City of New York has a multi-agency initiative to replace such fuel tanks; and

**Whereas:** The NYC Department of Design & Construction (DDC) presented on 2/11/2020 to Community Board 12, Manhattan's Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee its plan to replace the fuel tank; and

**Whereas:** The 1,000-gallon storage below ground tank would be replaced with an ABOVE ground tank. The new tank will be slightly larger in size (approximately 4' tall x 11' long x 6' wide) in accordance with new environmental and safety regulations but the same capacity. Locating the tank above-ground makes it easier to visually inspect it on a regular basis. It also would be prohibitively expensive and impractical due to bedrock and established adjacent infrastructure to locate a new tank below-ground. The new tank will be vehicle-resistant (12k# at 10mph), fire-resistant (two-hour rating), and ballistic-resistant; and

**Whereas:** The project contractor will drain and thoroughly clean the old tank, and will perform complete soil analysis prior to installing the new tank, and replace surrounding plantings in kind; and

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**Whereas:** Construction is anticipated to begin at the end of summer 2020, is anticipated to take one-two months to complete, and is not anticipated to have any impact on the nearby Playground or the operation of the adjacent field house; and

**Whereas:** DDC plans to present this project to the NYC Public Design Commission for its consideration in March 2020; and

**Whereas:** It is generally desirable for public agencies to use more eco-friendly, sustainable energy sources where practicable, such as solar power, and to move away from fossil-fuels. The current tank use #2 oil and B5 biodiesel (i.e., a blend with up to 5% bio-fuel) and the new tank will use this same blend with the capacity to step up to B20 then B50 and ultimately B100 bio-diesel (i.e., fully renewable) fuel, and the existing structure does not lend itself to solar power due (ironically) to its location at the edge of a forest and its proximity to many trees which cannot be cut down; now therefore, be it

**Resolved:** Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed design of the new above-ground fuel tank at the Payson Playground and recommends that the New York City Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes up for their review; and be it further

**Resolved:** Community Board 12, Manhattan encourages the NYC Department of Design & Construction and all NYC agencies to use the most eco-friendly, sustainable energy whenever and wherever possible, and to take sustainability into its designs.

Sincerely,



Eleazar Bueno  
Chairperson

cc: Hon. William Castro, Borough Commissioner NYC Parks  
Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman  
Ms. Jennifer Hoppa, Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator

Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, State Senator  
Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Assembly Member  
Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member  
Hon. Lorraine Grillo, DDC Commissioner  
Hon. Signe Nielsen, Commissioner NYC PDC