



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

530 West 166th St. 6th Floor, New York, NY 10032

Phone: (212) 568-8500, Fax: (212) 740-8197

Website: www.nyc.gov/mcb12

George Fernández Jr. - Chairman
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

July 1, 2015

Hon. Mitchell Silver
Commissioner
NYC Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal - 830 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver:

Please be advised that at the General Meeting Tuesday, June 23, 2015 Community Board 12 Manhattan passed a resolution by a vote of (32) In Favor, (3) Opposed, (1) Not Voting, 1. encouraging Councilmembers Ydanis Rodriguez (10th CD) and Mark Levine (7th CD) to continue to advocate for more resources for our parks; 2. requesting that the NYPD make resources available for the 33rd & 34th Precincts to assist in closing parks and playgrounds at their posted closing times; and 3. calling on our local, Borough, Citywide, State and Federal officials to help fund the re-opening of the Inwood Hill Nature Center and the restoration of its bathrooms.

Whereas: Community District 12, Manhattan has more than 600 acres of parks and playgrounds – from the Wright Brothers Playground to Inwood Hill Park and everything in between, from Riverside and Ft. Washington Parks to Highbridge Park and everything in between – which serve as are our front and back yards, and are available for the recreation and enjoyment of all CD12 residents and visitors alike; and

Whereas: New York City's parks are, for the most part, open until 1am and playgrounds until dusk; and

Whereas: funding for parks is currently just over a half-percent (.056%) of the total NYC budget; and

Whereas: the Department of Parks & Recreation has a limited number of employees, even including available overtime, to clean and maintain these parks and playgrounds, and

Whereas: the existing DPR Maintenance & Operations personnel do an outstanding job given the enormity of the task and their limited resources; and

Whereas: there only two Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers regularly assigned to provide enforcement of existing rules, regulations and laws in our parks and playgrounds (plus a team detailed specifically to the newly-opened High Bridge), which number is woefully inadequate; and

Whereas: NYPD officers from the 33rd and 34th Precincts often are detailed to traffic, quality-of-life and other assignments and not available to patrol in and around our parks and playgrounds; and

Whereas: the mere presence of law enforcement personnel, whether NYPD, PEP or Urban Park Rangers, is a powerful tool for public education of rules, regulations, laws and appropriate behavior in our parks and playgrounds and deterrent to crime, in addition to the obvious public safety benefit of issuing warnings or summonses for violations; and

Whereas: CB12M and members of the community in no way support or request the criminalization of minor infractions or punitive summoning for the purpose of generating revenue; and

Whereas: collaborative community programming by local organizations, institutions and individuals, as well as by DPR serves to increase awareness about our parks, playgrounds and waterfront, and appropriate stewardship of same; and

Whereas: the Inwood Hill Nature Center (and the Urban Park Rangers' station) remains unusable almost three years after damage sustained in Superstorm Sandy due to lack of funding for repair, which has a negative impact on programming, amenities and enforcement in Inwood Hill Park, now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan encourages Councilmembers Ydanis Rodriguez (10th CD) and Mark Levine (7th CD) to continue to advocate for more resources for our parks, playgrounds and waterfront, including not only for increased patrols and enforcement but also additional programming which supports increased institutional and community stewardship of these parks, playgrounds and waterfront; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan requests that the NYPD make resources available for the 33rd & 34th Precincts to assist in closing parks and playgrounds at their posted closing times, as well as for regular patrolling of our parks, playgrounds and waterfront; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan calls on our local, Borough, Citywide, State and Federal officials to help fund the re-opening of the Inwood Hill Nature Center and the restoration of its bathrooms.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. We look forward to a favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,



George Fernandez, Jr.
Chair

cc: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor
Hon. Gail Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman

Hon. Adriano Espaillat, NY State Senator
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member