



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Eleazar Bueno, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

December 6, 2021

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

Re: Resolution Supporting the Retaining Wall Reconstruction Project in Inwood Hill, Isham. J. Hood Wright Parks & the Dorothy McGowan Memorial Garden.

Dear Commissioner Silver:

Please be advised that Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed a resolution with 32 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, 1 not voting at its Tuesday, November 23rd, 2021, General Meeting, supporting the proposed retaining wall reconstruction project as presented on November 9, 2021, and recommending that the New York City Public Design Commission approved the project and design should it come before them for review. Community Board 12, Manhattan respectfully requests that Parks stage the work to prioritize the Isham Park repairs first and time the work in the Dorothy McGowan Garden to not conflict with the growing season.

Whereas: The Mayor has funded \$12.269 million to repair five retaining walls in four sites within Community District 12, Manhattan (and two in the Bronx, which is outside the purview of this Board and not part of this resolution); and

Whereas: The various retaining wall collapses and compromises pose a public hazard and impede the public's use of these parks and gardens; and

Whereas: The NYC Parks Department presented on November 9, 2021, to Community Board 12, Manhattan's Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee, a plan to reconstruct and stabilize the various sites in CD12M as follows:

- **Inwood Hill Park:** 85' retaining wall length along Payson Ave., north of Beak Street. This work will necessitate the removal of one tree, which will be replaced.
- **Isham Park:** 45' section collapsed three years ago along Isham Alley. This project will repair the wall and stabilize the adjacent slope. The project will also improve 10' along the memorial circle in the upper park. One tree will need to be removed and will be replaced.
- **J. Hood Wright** project will repair the retaining wall along W. 176th St. (near Pinehurst Ave.), reconstruct the parapet, and maintain the stability of the adjacent sidewalk.
- **Dorothy McGowan Garden** (@ W. 158th St., btw. Broadway/Amsterdam) will repair/reinforce two overlapping walls plus a third wall at the back of the garden. One tree, which is growing into the retaining wall, will be removed. Parks has an agreement with the owner of the neighboring property for access; and

Whereas: Repair of the collapsed retaining wall in Isham Park has been among CB12M's top capital priorities for two years; and

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December 6, 2021

Page 2

Whereas: Removed trees will be replaced per NYC Parks guidelines, and, budget permitting, Parks will do its best to replace a damaged tree lost two years ago in Isham Park near the Memorial Circle; and

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed retaining wall reconstruction project as presented on November 9, 2021, and recommends that the New York City Public Design Commission approved the project and design should it come before them for review; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan respectfully requests that Parks stage the work to prioritize the Isham Park repairs first and time the work in the Dorothy McGowan Garden to not conflict with the growing season.

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. Signe Nielsen, Commissioner NYC PDC