



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Katherine Diaz, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

October 3, 2023

Hon. Susan M. Donoghue, Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Re: Resolution Supporting NYC Parks Proposed Reconstruction/Renovation of the J. Hood Wright Park Retaining Wall.

Dear Commissioner Donoghue:

At the General Meeting on Tuesday, January 24th, 2023, Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed the following resolution with a vote of 37 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1, not voting, due to conflict, supporting the proposed design and recommending that the Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes for review and calling on the NYC Parks Department to make adequate repairs to the existing handball courts in J. Hood Wright Park.

Whereas: J. Hood Wright Park is located between Fort Washington and Haven Avenues between W. 173rd and W. 176th Streets, and there is a retaining wall and ramp on the northern perimeter at W. 17th Street the former of which has fallen into disrepair and the latter of which is not ADA compliant due to grade and lack of adequate railings; and

Whereas: The NYC Parks Department ("Parks") made a presentation to Community Board 12, Manhattan's Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee ("The Committee") on November 9, 2021, regarding its plan to repair the retaining wall in J. Hood Wright Park along W. 176th St. near Pinehurst Ave., reconstruct the parapet, and maintain the stability of the adjacent sidewalk; and

Whereas: NYC Mayor Adams has funded \$2.15 million to complete this project and to add to the scope the repair/replacement of the adjacent pedestrian ramp with a ramp that has a landing as well as handrails on both sides; and

Whereas: Parks made an additional presentation to The Committee on September 12, 2023, to discuss the change in scope and present the finalized proposed plan which includes, in addition to the foregoing, the expansion of the sidewalk near the entrance to the ramp from a 2-1/2' wide strip of concrete to one that is 5' wide; and

Whereas: The plan will repair any recreational areas such as the soccer pitch and the handball courts to return them to the state in which they were before the commencement of the project, but will not make any repairs to correct existing problems with the handball courts as these are beyond the scope of the current project; and

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Whereas: It is desirable to have adequate handball facilities in the District, and the ones in J. Hood Wright Park need some repair, the District operations team stated that Parks would be able to make necessary repairs, including the removal of many layers of paint from the backboard, using in-house staff and current operating/expense dollars; and

Whereas: The timeline for this project is another 2-3 months, 12 months for procurement, and not more than 12 months for construction, with an anticipated groundbreaking in 2024 and re-opening in the 4Q of 2025; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan supports the proposed design and recommends that the Public Design Commission approve the design when it comes for review; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan calls on the NYC Parks Department to make adequate repairs to the existing handball courts in J. Hood Wright Park.

Sincerely,



Katherine Diaz

Chairperson

cc: Hon. Anthony Perez, Borough Commissioner NYC Parks Hon. Robert Jackson, State Senator
Hon. Eric Adams, Mayor Hon. Cordell Cleare, State Senator
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President Hon. Al Taylor, Assembly Member
Hon. Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate Hon. Manny De Los Santos, Assembly Member
Hon. Brad Lander, Comptroller Hon. Carmen De La Rosa, Council Member
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congressman Hon. Shaun Abreu, Council Member