



Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Richard R. Lewis, Chairperson
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

June 7, 2019

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

Re: Resolution Supporting an NYC Soccer Initiative Soccer Pitch in J. Hood Wright Park

Dear Commissioner Silver:

Please be advised that Community Board 12, Manhattan, passed a resolution with 37 votes in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 1 not voting, at its Tuesday, May 28, 2019 General Meeting, supporting the siting of an NYC Soccer Initiative soccer pitch in J. Hood Wright Park, and requests that the Parks Department issue the necessary permits so that the proposed pitch may be installed as soon as possible.

- Whereas:** The \$3 million NY Soccer Initiative was launched three years ago with support from private sponsors (Adidas, US Soccer, etc.) and the Mayor's Office to fund, build, and maintain 50 soccer fields throughout the City, and has been working with NYC's Departments of Parks and Education and the NYC Housing Authority as well as community groups to identify sites, has built 20 fields in two years and is looking to build ten more this year; and
- Whereas:** NYC Soccer Initiative recently identified a spot in J. Hood Wright Park (in the middle of the northern edge, by the Pinehurst Ave. entrance to the park, just west of the basketball/fitness/handball areas) as a great place for a mini-soccer field, approximately 4,500 square feet (90' x 50') with a 4' sideline and back-fencing where appropriate, and made a full and detailed presentation to the Community Board 12, Manhattan Parks & Cultural Affairs Committee on May 14, 2019; and
- Whereas:** This siting is organic to its current use as kids already play soccer there, and there has been community interest for years to have an area in that Park in which to play soccer, but there was never available funding to do so; and
- Whereas:** The soccer pitches come with free training and gear, and will be maintained by the NYC Soccer Initiative; and

Whereas: The proposal enjoys the support of community organizations including Children's Arts & Science Workshop, Soccer Uptown, and America Scores, which operates a free program 3 days/week for 24 weeks in the spring & fall funded by DYCD and based in PS173 across the street and is willing to provide free summer programming in the future; and

Whereas: The pitch will be and all-weather low-maintenance acrylic and can be installed in 3-6 weeks at a cost \$60k-\$70k, all paid by the NY Soccer Initiative, and, pending approvals, could be ready as soon as this fall; and

Whereas Accessibility is important to the Committee; now therefore be it

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan fully supports the siting of an NYC Soccer Initiative soccer pitch in J. Hood Wright Park, and requests that the Parks Department issue the necessary permits so that the proposed pitch may be installed as soon as possible; and be it further

Resolved: Community Board 12, Manhattan urges this (and any other pitch) to be fully ADA accessible.

Sincerely,


Richard R. Lewis
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
Hon. Signe Nielsen, Commissioner NYC PDC
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. George Hirsch, Chairman NY Road Runners