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## COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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October 6, 2023

Anthony Perez  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
Arsenal West  
24 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Perez:

At its Full Board meeting on September 21, 2023, Community Board #2, adopted the following resolution:

### **A Resolution in Support of New Yorkers for Parks' advocacy push to increase maintenance and operations funding for parks to 1% of the City Budget.**

#### **WHEREAS:**

1. Adam Ganser, executive director of New Yorkers for Parks, came to Manhattan Community Board 2's Parks & Waterfront Committee meeting on September 6th, 2023 to make a presentation in support of its 1% for NYC Parks funding initiative.
2. New Yorkers for Parks presented their perspective that there is a need to correct severe neglect that our parks are suffering and how dedicating 1% of the City Budget could help alleviate this extensive problem.
3. Parks and open spaces provide numerous benefits to communities, including promoting physical and mental health; providing spaces for community gatherings and events; improving air quality, climate resiliency and cooling; and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents.
4. Well-maintained parks mitigate the impact of the urban "heat island" effect and can protect people from heat waves and reduce summer energy use. They also absorb rainfall, reduce flooding and recharge drinking water supplies, while saving energy for water management.
5. Many of our City's parks and open spaces have experienced neglect and underfunding, resulting in deteriorating conditions and limited programming options.
6. The 1% for Parks campaign proposes that the City dedicate 1% of the City's annual budget towards parks and green spaces, ensuring adequate funding for staffing, operations, maintenance, and other critical needs.

7. Many large U.S. cities allocate more than 1% of their city budgets to parks, which has resulted in significant improvements in those communities. For example, San Francisco spends 1.6% of its municipal budget on parks, Los Angeles spends 2.9%, Chicago 4.3% and Minneapolis 5.3% percent.
8. The 1% for Parks campaign has garnered widespread support from community organizations, advocacy groups, and residents who recognize the importance of these spaces to the health and well-being of our community.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board 2:

1. Fully supports the 1% for Parks campaign and urges our elected officials to allocate this increased funding in the New York City budget.  
Believes that investing in parks and open spaces is essential to creating a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable environment for all residents.
2. Calls on our elected officials to prioritize parks and open space in budget decisions in order to ensure that each and every community in New York City has access to safe, clean, and well-maintained parks and open spaces.

**Vote:** Unanimous, with 39 Board members in favor.

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks & Waterfront Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Susan Kent, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

SK/em

cc: Hon. Dan Goldman, Congressman  
Hon. Brian Kavanaugh, NY State Senator  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NY Assembly Member  
Hon. Grace Lee, NY Assembly Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Christopher Marte, NYC Council Member  
Hon. Carlina Rivera, NYC Council Member  
Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member  
Steve Simon, Chief of Staff, Man. Borough Commissioner