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Terri Cude, *First Vice Chair*  
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*  
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Keen Berger, *Secretary*  
Daniel Miller, *Assistant Secretary*

## COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE  
NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.cb2manhattan.org](http://www.cb2manhattan.org)

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Greenwich Village ✦ Little Italy ✦ SoHo ✦ NoHo ✦ Hudson Square ✦ Chinatown ✦ Gansevoort Market

April 26, 2016

William T. Castro  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Arsenal West, 24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on April 21, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

### **Resolution after presentation by Friends of High Line about upcoming programming including an event with Target Corp**

#### **Whereas**

1. The High Line operates as a private entity with a lease arrangement with the Department of Parks & Recreation.
2. The Friends of the High Line is tasked with raising significant amounts of money each year to maintain the park and run programming.
3. The DPR allows the Friends of the High Line to hold 5 events or “sponsor activations” to raise money from sponsors.
4. This neighborhood, and the level of activity, under and around the High Line is vastly different now than at the beginning of the Park’s creation when the arrangement with DPR was established. At the time the Park was opened, the surrounding streets were busy only during the active hours of the meat market, such that the allowance for a concession might have made sense. However, now, with the opening of Santina Restaurant, the Whitney Museum, the events organized by the Meatpacking BID, and the growth of businesses that have sprouted along the entrance to the High Line, a significant increase in people, noise, and traffic has significantly hampered peaceful enjoyment by those who live in the community. Any additional activity is a detriment to quality of life.
5. One such event, the “Friends of the High Line and Target Partnership,” is an “activation” that will take place from Friday, April 8 - Monday, April 11, 10am - 8pm each day. It will be constructed both in one of the two corridors on the High Line at 14<sup>th</sup> St. and in the street level plaza directly below the High Line. Park visitors will be invited but not required to opt into this free experience.
6. This plan has been approved by the DPR.

7. Our committee believes Friends of the High Line should have come to our committee to tell us about this event much earlier than they did and that they should come to us 45 days before such events in the future.

**Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan:**

1. Expresses great fondness and support for the High Line,
2. Expresses appreciation for the work of the Friends of the High Line,
3. Asks that, from this moment forward, the Department of Parks & Recreation and the Friends of the High Line bring such planned events to CB2 for review, and perhaps come up with a "template" for such events to make our review easier and more efficient, as a concession for this substantial intrusion into public space.
4. Requests that the contract between DPR and Friends of the High Line be presented to CB2 before its next renewal date so that the question of concessions, opportunities for producing income, and permitted activities receive community input.

**VOTE: Unanimous, with 39 Board Members in favor.**

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TB/EM

- c: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Speaker  
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William T. Castro  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Arsenal West, 24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor  
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Dear Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on April 21, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

**Resolution request to the Department of Parks & Recreation to install a low permanent fence, possibly a hoop fence, around the Arthur Strickler Garden and the adjacent planted triangle on the west side of Hudson Street at Bethune Street**

### Whereas

1. The gardens at Hudson and Bethune Streets have been bordered by minimal bamboo and plastic 'fences' that have been in very bad repair for some time. Both gardens are also bordered by well-installed low, small granite brick edging.
2. The fences had become damaged, and in some areas dangerous, and so were recently removed. In addition, around the Arthur Strickler garden a row of Belgian blocks sitting on top of the smaller granite brick edging was never properly cemented, and the blocks have been completely loose for some time and continually end up in various places on the poorly lit sidewalk, presenting a tripping hazard.
3. Much of the maintenance and planting work on the gardens is done by volunteers
4. As a result of there being no bordering fences, dog owner regularly allow their pets to roam freely in the gardens don't clean up after them
5. Recently, new "No Pets" signs were put up by nearby residents and virtually all were torn down within days.

**Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan** asks DPR to

1. Remove all the loose, large Belgian blocks and consider using them elsewhere (e.g., the Archive Greenstreets garden at the corner of Greenwich St. & Christopher St.).
2. Repair any existing problem areas along the small granite brick edging of the two gardens.

3. Install a 15" high hoop border fence around the Arthur Strickler garden.
4. Install a 10-12" high hoop border fence around the smaller triangle garden.
5. Install new DPR "No Pets Allowed" signs in both gardens, with at least 4 in the larger Arthur Strickler garden.

**VOTE: Unanimous, with 39 Board Members in favor.**

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
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Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Arsenal West, 24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor  
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Dear Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on April 21, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

### **Proposal to install chains and signs for effective night time closing of Washington Square Park**

#### **Whereas**

1. During design review for the renovation of the Washington Square Park, the Parks Department included a perimeter fence, but in response to requests from CB 2 and elected officials agreed that no gates would be installed.
2. The existing fence is attractive and works to protect plantings, and the non-gated look conforms with the spirit and history of the park.
3. The design also includes use of simple chain fences throughout the park to protect lawns and planted areas.
4. Washington Square Park closes at midnight, the latest legal closing time of New York City Parks.
5. Illegal night time use of the park can create a nuisance for neighbors and may encourage people to sleep in the park or use the park for other illegal purposes.
6. Residential neighbors have complained about illegal late night use.
7. There are nine path entrances into the Park and one wide opening at the arch.
8. The 6<sup>th</sup> precinct is responsible for enforcement of the night time closing.
9. The precinct uses metal police barricades at the entrances to close off the entrances.
10. The barricades are ugly when in place and also when pushed to the side when the park is open.
11. The barricades are cumbersome and time-consuming to place.
12. The barricades are ineffective because they are not locked, and people are able to push them to the side, and therefore NYPD cannot issue summonses to people who enter.
13. The precinct has repeatedly requested a more effective and efficient way to close the park.
14. With the completion of the perimeter sidewalk, renovation of the park will be complete.

**Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan** requests the following

1. Installation of an effective and attractive means of closing park entrances that is consistent with the reason for the community's original opposition to the installation of entrance gates.
2. A design consisting of chains identical to the ones used throughout the park.
3. That, at the path entrances, the chains be fastened to the fence pylons, with approximately half the length of the chain on each side.
4. That when not in use, the chains be stored inside the pylons.
5. That, when the park is closed, the chains be connected at the center with a padlock and the length be such that they hang with an appearance similar to the chains throughout the park
6. That there be a "Park Closed" sign hanging at the center of each chain.
7. That the chains may be marked or painted to improve visibility
8. That the Parks Department design and install a simple method of similar chains to close the wide opening at the arch, possibly using movable and stackable tripods.
9. That a suitable method be included to allow access by emergency vehicles.
10. That local elected officials consider expressing support for this method of securing the park at night.

**VOTE: Passed, with 34 Board Members in favor.**

**Against: 4 Board Members (S. Smith, J. Gallagher, B. Freeland, K. Berger)**

**Abstain: 1 Board Member (S. Russo)**

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Arsenal West, 24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor  
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Dear Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on April 21, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

### **Resolution on latest plans by the Department of Parks & Recreation for addressing sound levels from non-amplified instruments and music played at high volume in Washington Square Park**

#### **Whereas**

1. The Department of Parks & Recreation has tried to balance enforcement of citywide noise regulations with requests from the local community to allow free expression in Washington Square Park. However, our committee has received many complaints from park users and neighbors over the past few years regarding disturbance caused by constant drumming, the playing of recorded music by performers, and loud horn playing (even when not electrically amplified), and our committee has held meetings and has written resolutions asking that these issues be addressed and park rules be more consistently enforced.
2. The New York City Department of Parks & Recreation has assigned a Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) sergeant to address the ongoing noise complaints expressed by neighbors and park-goers.
3. The sergeant will use a decibel meter to monitor and measure both ambient noise levels and specific sound levels emanating from non-amplified instruments.
4. The sergeant will "get to know" the musicians, educate them on sound levels and "keep them aware of what the levels are and how compliance works," with the goal of "voluntary compliance," but PEP management stated: "We're not interested in any kind of crackdown."
5. Sarah Nielson, Washington Square Park Administrator, stated that the sound levels deemed acceptable in Washington Square Park are "slightly more lenient than DEP's general rule," and that musicians will get a warning if they are 10 decibels above the level of the area's ambient noise as measured from a distance of 30 feet, whereas DEP's standard is 15 feet.
6. Ms. Nielson stated that the goal of the plan to utilize meters is to "apply science rather than my opinion versus your opinion."

7. Ms. Nielson explained that this plan came out of discussions between New York City's Law Department, the Parks Department, and the Department of Environmental Protection, which regulates sound issues.
8. The new sergeant will be responsible for supervising all of the Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers in the park.
9. The sergeant will be trained to use the decibel meter, and then the other PEP officers will be trained and certified to use the decibel meters.

**Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan:**

1. Sees this assignment of a sergeant to Washington Square Park, and the communicated plan to use decibel meters to measure non-amplified sound, as positive steps forward in addressing this on-going series of noise complaints from the community.
2. Asks that the Department of Parks & Recreation keep us updated on the progress of the initiative, including regular reports to this committee.

**VOTE: Unanimous, with 39 Board Members in favor.**

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

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Dear Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on April 21, 2016, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

### **Resolution on status and progress of park improvement projects in our District**

#### **Whereas**

1. Our District has experienced a noteworthy number of high quality park improvement projects over the last 3-4 years, projects that have significantly improved the quality of life of our residents, including renovation of James J. Walker field, renovation of Bleecker Street Playground, development of a new playground at Minetta Lane, opening of a new play area on LaGuardia Place, and the renovations of Washington Square Park, among others.
2. Our District has enjoyed a substantial and much appreciated level of attention from the Department of Parks & Recreation in recent years such that though the park space per 1000 residents metric is among the lowest of any community in New York City, the quality level of the relatively few parks that exist in our neighborhoods seems to be comparatively quite high.
3. The great majority of the renovation and park creation projects that have been undertaken in our District have been run effectively and completed within reasonable expectations of duration and delivery dates.
4. However, recently, progress of important, approved and funded projects, specifically the renovations of DeSalvio Playground, Little Red Square, and Father Fagan Park (a fully-funded project the duration of which is now approaching 5 years, with a target date now being communicated of at least another year), have not followed this pattern, i.e., have not been progressed as successfully as the other projects mentioned in point 1 above.
5. Further, we believe that similar park renovation projects taking place in other Districts in the City have progressed more successfully than these projects in CB2 that have been delayed. Other Districts have realized results more in keeping with that which we had experienced.

**Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 2, Manhattan:**

1. Urges the Department of Parks & Recreation to apply greater attention and focus on the renovations of DeSalvio Playground, Little Red Square, and Father Fagan Square.
2. Urges the Department of Parks & Recreation to increase and improve communications with the community concerning the status of these critical, long-awaited, and long promised initiatives.

**VOTE: Unanimous, with 39 Board Members in favor.**

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

Sincerely,



Tobi Bergman, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



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