

CITY OF NEW YORK

**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR**

330 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, 26<sup>th</sup> floor New York, NY 10036  
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**Lowell D. Kern**  
Chair

**Jesse R. Bodine**  
District Manager

August 3, 2020

Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner  
NY Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10029

Dear Commissioner Silver,

The running track that circles the large turf area of Chelsea Park is severely deteriorated. Manhattan Community Board 4 requests its immediate replacement with a new and safer track. At Manhattan Community Board 4's July 22<sup>nd</sup> Full Board meeting, the Board voted by 45 in favor, 2 against, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote to support this request.

The running track has been in growing need of repairs for a number of years and has reached the current state in which sections of the track no longer align, there are gaps between sections of the track, and the track folds up in places that present tripping hazards. Gaps that had been filled over the few years by a filler material have grown to where there are now gaps between the track and the filler material. While attempts to keep the track viable have been valiant, it is obvious to anyone using the track that continued repairs are no longer effective and a complete replacement is needed.

A park of great importance to our district, Chelsea Park, has seen dramatically increased use this year due to COVID-19 with local gyms closed, so many local residents working from home, and students seeking active play space with schools closed. Located close to so much of our community's residential neighborhoods, including large affordable housing cores at Chelsea-Elliott Houses immediately to the west and Penn South to the east, Chelsea's largest City Park is a vital amenity in our neighborhood. The park serves a veritable melting pot in our district, with users spanning many generations and cultures. We greatly appreciate the work that the Parks Department does to maintain the park's condition, which by and large is in good condition given its constant and active use.

Use of the track by this diverse population of which we are justly proud, especially as our City continues to adjust to the COVID Era, requires the City to find a way to replace the track as soon as possible.

Thank you.

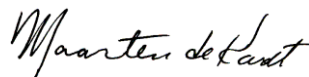
Sincerely,



Lowell Kern  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board 4



Jeffrey LeFrancois  
Co-chair  
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee



Maarten deKadt  
Co-chair  
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

Enclosure

