CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LOWELL D. KERN
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 16th, 2020

Cicely Harris
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 10
215 West 125th Street, 4th Floor
New York, NY 10027

Re: Permanent exhibit to commemorate the Exonerated Five in Central Park

Dear Chairperson Harris,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (CB4) fully supports the call for an installation of a permanent exhibit to commemorate the Exonerated Five in Central Park, as we believe it would benefit the residents of our district and all New Yorkers. We thank you and Karen Horry, Co-chair of CB10's Parks and Recreation Committee for your presentation to CB4's Social and Racial Justice Task Force meeting on October 20th. Subsequently, at its regularly scheduled full board meeting on November 4th, 2020, MCB4 voted, by a vote of 43 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, to recommend support of the proposed project.

Attendees were impressed by the comprehensive presentation of the proposal for the permanent exhibit and related programs for education and advocacy about the impact of racial inequities in our justice system on our fellow New Yorkers, past and ongoing. We commend CB10 for its leadership in addressing a longstanding community concern with boldness and vision —about how the mistreatment of the so-called "Central Park Five" made residents of your district feel unwelcome in Central Park. Though this Board does not typically comment on matters outside our district boundaries, we stand in solidarity with CB10 and support the underlying mission of this appeal as the subject concerns and affects our district along with all fellow New Yorkers. Our district includes Columbus Circle and abuts Central Park, where many of our residents spend considerable time. Like CB10, CB4 wants Central Park to be a place where all of our residents feel welcome.

With the recent incident of an attempted arrest of an African-American CB4 resident, Derrick Ingram, it seems that the systemic racial inequities remain many years after the five innocent teenage boys were railroaded by law enforcement and the justice system, and continue to have effects in our district today.

We would also like to do our part on the education front. In coordination with the anticipated realization of the exhibit, we will be happy to provide updates on the progress to our district's residents, and coordinate resources within our district. Tamara McCaw, Chief Civic Program Officer of the Shed—our district's unique new arts center with the mission of "advancing art

forms, addressing the urgent issues of our time, and making our work impactful, sustainable, and relevant to the local community, the cultural sector, New York City, and beyond,"—attended our meeting, and expressed an interest in opening such a dialogue.

Community Board 4 stands with Community Board 10 for the creation of this permanent exhibit, with educational resources, and looks forward to further support the process.

Sincerely,

Lowell Kern
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4

[Signed 11/16/20]
Katy Stokes
Co-Chair
Social and Racial Justice Task Force

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Co-Chair
Social and Racial Justice Task Force

CC: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
Speaker Johnson, New York City Council
Hon. Keith Powers, New York City Council
Hon. Linda Rosenthal, New York State Assembly
Hon. Ines Dickens, New York State Assembly
Hon. Jose Serrano, New York State Senate
Hon. Brian Benjamin New York State Senate
Hon. Robert Rodriguez, New York State Assembly
Commissioner Mitchell Silver, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Tamara McCaw, Chief Civic Program Officer, the Shed
Steve Simon, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Karren Horry, Community Board 10
Lane Addonizio, Central Park Conservancy