

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

May 17, 2022

Hon. Erik Bottcher
NYC Council Member
224 W. 30th Street, Suite 1206
New York, NY 10001

William T. Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
Arsenal West
24 W. 61st Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10023

Re: Temporary Dog Run at Penn South

Dear Council Member Bottcher and Commissioner Castro,

The Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee (the “Committee”) of Manhattan Community Board 4 (“MCB4”) thanks you for your presentation on April 14 to the Committee regarding the trial dog run that has been opened in the Penn South Playground.

MCB4 appreciates the prompt action taken to address the community’s need for an additional dog run due to the closure for renovation of the dog run at Chelsea Waterside Park. However, the committee was disappointed that the dog run was put in place before the Community Board and the public could provide comment. As a result, with the understanding that this is only a trial, the committee looks forward to having further discussions about the use of this space as Chelsea Waterside Park’s dog run reopens. MCB4, at its May 4th meeting, voted to approve this letter by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote.

MCB4 expresses concerns regarding the following points:

- This dog run is placed closely between residential buildings. Potential noise and continuous barking have been flagged
- A timely opening and closing
- Daily maintenance and contact person
- A reduction of the children’s play area

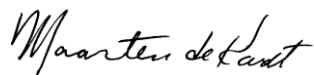
It is clear to MCB4 that, given the number of dog owners in the district, an additional dog run would be a welcome addition. The Penn South Park is slated for a major renovation, and we are looking forward to a comprehensive redevelopment of the space. The upcoming design process should include comment on and consideration of the entire park including how the section now being used as a dog run fits in. Appropriate, alternative uses for the “dog run” section of the park should then be fully examined. (As you are aware, renovations at this playground have been a long-standing priority of MCB4.) Moving forward, MCB4 respectfully requests to be consulted about new facilities before they are implemented.

We expect you to be willing to make adjustments to the operation of the dog run based on further community input. Additionally, once the dog run reopens at Chelsea Waterside Park, MCB4 expects that the Parks Department will return to the Committee to discuss the future of the trial dog run and other permanent uses.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey LeFrancois
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Maarten deKadt
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Co-chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee

Cc: Steve Simon, Chief of Staff to Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Parks