

CITY OF NEW YORK  
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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**JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS**  
Chair

**JESSE R. BODINE**  
District Manager

May 24, 2022

Hon. Eric Adams  
Mayor, City of New York  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

**Re: NYC Department of Parks & Recreation Budget**

Dear Mayor Adams,

During your campaign you committed to allocating 1% of the city's annual budget to Parks. Instead, we are dismayed to note, you are now proposing to allocate just 60 percent of that number and eliminate 3,500 positions.

By a Full Board vote of 38 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions and 1 present not eligible, MCB4 approves the following comments:

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) strongly urges you to keep your campaign promise and allocate \$1 billion to parks in the upcoming budget cycle. The recent COVID pandemic highlighted the importance of our outdoor, public areas. These spaces provide refuge from the skyscrapers and concrete that dominate our city and are essential to a healthy city life.

Our district has some of the lowest square feet per capita of nearby park space.<sup>1</sup> This makes the maintenance of and commitment to those spaces all the more important. This funding will provide but is not limited to:

- Much needed, significant renovations to aging infrastructure and equipment
- A year-round, well-trained team of parks professionals
- Maintenance for trash and plantings clean up
- Park safety and enforcement patrol
- Green job opportunities
- Identifying and creating more park spaces

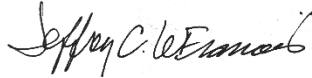
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<sup>1</sup><https://ibo.nyc.ny.us/cgi-park2/2020/07/which-neighborhoods-have-more-nearby-park-space-per-capita/>

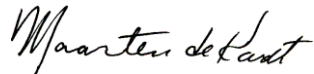
A diminished park budget, as you have proposed, will contribute to yet more economic injustice with our public spaces and derelict conditions. Full, promised funding is necessary to provide significant investment for our city parks and to ensure parks are safe, clean, and accessible, especially in our district where open areas are scarce.

We urge you to honor your pre-election promise and allocate 1% of the city's budget to our park spaces.

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, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Parks  
Paul Evans, NYC Parks  
Terese Flores, NYC Parks  
Adam Ganser, Executive Director, New Yorkers for Parks