



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
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District Manager

August 4, 2023

Anthony Perez
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
Arsenal West
24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10023

Re: Mathews-Palmer Playground Construction

Dear Manhattan Borough Commissioner Perez,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee (WPE) thanks Paul Evans, Park Manager, and Steve Simon, Chief of Staff, from your staff for attending the July 13th WPE committee meeting. Both Paul and Steve provide an update on the adjacent construction at Mathews-Palmer Playground.

This NYC Parks location has been a long-standing problem for our neighborhood. Dependent on private building construction, the northeast portion of the park has been rendered useless and, at times, dangerous due to hazardous façade conditions.

Though we understand the hurdles in completing work to make Mathews-Palmer a fully functioning park, the community requests certain safeguards as renovations continue.

By a Full Board vote of 36 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention and 0 present not eligible, MCB4 seeks the following:

1. Secure the construction fencing now protecting the area. There have been reported instances of children attempting to fetch errant balls and toys and meeting flimsy fencing material they try to climb. We hope the Parks Department recognizes this potential hazard and provide a more secure fencing structure.
2. There have been reported complaints of people getting electrical shocks from the above mentioned fencing. We appreciate Parks sending an electrician to evaluate the location and

removing the former conduit remnants. MCB4 expects this potentially dangerous situation to be fully resolved immediately.

3. Completion of work to coincide with the now-extended permit (December 2023). Knowing much of the renovation schedule has been outside the reach of NYC Parks, we expect the city to do all in its power to enforce the current timeline. Unfortunately, the community has waited years for Mathews-Palmer become wholly accessible. With work now resumed, we fully count on work finished by the end of this year.

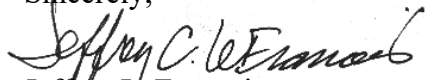
MCB4 would like to thank Parks' recent efforts to reopen Mathew-Palmers Playground. We note the positive updates such as,

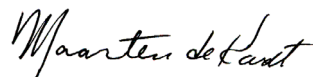
- A refurbishing of plant beds
- A full park cleaning, including the bathrooms
- Securing the working order of the spray shower
- New paint for the doors, handball walls and retaining walls
- Exploring reinstalling the fallen slab in the NW corner of the park

We also would like to thank Parks for your ongoing support of a compost collection station within the playground.

We look forward to our ongoing, positive conversation getting Mathews-Palmer Playground clean and safe for all to enjoy again.

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: Hon. Erik Bottcher, CityCouncil
HK45/46BA