

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

November 15, 2023

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. So far, that promise has not been realized.

At the November 1st Full Board meeting, by a vote of 36 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, a steadfast MCB4 request. The COVID pandemic emphasized the importance of our outdoor public areas and stressed the important relationship between parks equity, public health, and public safety.

Our district has some of the lowest square feet per capita of nearby park space.¹ 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
- Youth employment opportunities for Parks programming
- Green job opportunities
- Identifying and creating more park spaces

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

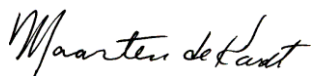
A diminished park budget will contribute to yet more economic injustice with our public spaces and derelict conditions. MCB4 would especially like to highlight unwelcome activity occurring in our parks overnight and the need for increased Parks staff for proper mitigation. Full, promised funding is necessary 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: Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council
Anthony Perez, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Parks
Adam Ganser, Executive Director, New Yorkers for Parks