

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

April 9, 2026

Kelvin Zhou
Building Owner
343 W. 47th Street
New York, NY 10036

Re: Follow-Up on Scaffolding Collapse and Ongoing Work at Ramon Aponte Playground

Dear Mr. Zhou,

Thank you for returning to Manhattan Community Board 4's Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee on March 12, 2026 to provide updates regarding the partial scaffold collapse at 343 West 47th Street on February 11 and the ongoing conditions affecting Ramon Aponte Playground.

This letter is intended to memorialize key points discussed at that meeting and to reaffirm the Board's expectations as work progresses.

First, we acknowledge and appreciate your commitment — confirmed during the March 12 meeting — that all scaffolding and related structures will be removed from the park by June 1, 2026. Given the prolonged impact this project has had on the playground and surrounding community, this deadline is of critical importance. We ask that you continue to prioritize this timeline and notify the Board immediately of any anticipated changes.

We also want to thank you for committing to have a site safety manager present within the park during peak after-school hours (approximately 2:30pm – 4:30pm). As discussed, this measure will help address safety concerns, including monitoring conditions near the work area and assisting with incidental issues, such as objects entering restricted zones. We appreciate this proactive step to support the safety of neighborhood children and families.

At the same time, the Board reiterates its request for ongoing transparency and communication regarding the investigation into the scaffold collapse. As noted during the meeting, an initial report is expected, with additional findings to follow. We request that all reports, supporting documentation and relevant findings be shared promptly with Manhattan Community Board 4 for review. Full visibility into the cause of the failure and the corrective measures being implemented remains essential.

We also note the discussion regarding a dead tree located near the southeast corner of the playground, which had been identified as a potential hazard. We appreciate NYC Parks expediting this work and thank the agency for removing the tree on March 30 while the playground remained closed, thereby helping to avoid the need for an additional future closure.

In addition, we appreciate NYC Parks' plan to install clear signage directing families to nearby playgrounds and open spaces while Ramon Aponte Playground remains closed or partially restricted. Providing this information will help mitigate the impact on neighborhood families during this period.

Finally, we again emphasize the urgency of restoring Ramon Aponte Playground to full use as quickly—and as safely—as possible. We understand that the necessary scaffolding permits from both NYC Parks and the Department of Buildings have now been issued, and we look forward to the prompt installation of the new structure and the subsequent reopening of the playground, even if initially in a limited capacity.

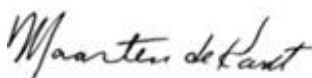
While certain areas may remain temporarily restricted during ongoing work, the prolonged loss of access to this heavily used neighborhood resource continues to have a meaningful impact on local families, particularly those connected to P.S. 212. Every effort should be made to minimize disruptions and safely return the playground to full operation at the earliest possible date.

We appreciate your continued engagement with the Board and your willingness to provide updates both during and between meetings. We look forward to receiving the investigation materials and to continued progress toward the safe and timely restoration of the playground.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



Maarten de Kadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee



Catie Savage
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee

CC: Tricia Shimamura, Commissioner, NYC Parks
Ahmed Tigani, Commissioner, NYC DOB