



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

330 West 42nd Street, 26th floor New York, NY 10036
tel: 212-736-4536 fax: 212-947-9512
www.nyc.gov/mcb4

COREY JOHNSON
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

Hon. Christine C. Quinn
Speaker
New York City Council
250 Broadway
New York, New York 10007

Hon. Scott M. Stringer
Office of the Manhattan Borough President
1 Centre Street, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Fountain at Pier 84

Dear Speaker Quinn and Manhattan Borough President Stringer:

As you may know, the very popular play fountain at Pier 84 was turned off recently due to concerns from the NYS DOH regarding its safety, which will require an expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars to fix - money that the financially strapped Hudson River Park Trust does not have in its budget. Manhattan Community Board No 4 (MCB4) is now appealing to our elected officials to help fund the installation of an ultraviolet system needed to re-open this fountain soon.

The fountain consist of numerous water jets in the pavement in a circular pattern, which appear to turn on and off in a random-like pattern. Kids run thru the fountain, sometime in-between spurts and other times getting wet, often on purpose. The fountain has been in constant use for several years by large numbers of kids (and even some young and young-at-heart adults). It is one of the most popular features of Pier 84, both for those using the fountain and for on-lookers walking by or at the adjacent café.



(Photos by Jean Preece, Hell's Kitchen resident, Friends of Pier 84 and the inspiration for the pop-up fountain)

However the DOH has determined that the recycling of the water, continually exposed to numerous human bodies, may cause the water to become contaminated enough to pose a health concern. The solution is to install an expensive ultraviolet system over the winter months, when the fountain is normally turned off. But, as is well known, the HRPT's budget is in the red and this sudden expense was not anticipated.

When the fountain was first turned off about 2 months ago, MCB4 receive numerous calls from users and block associations, wondering what had happened. Clearly, of all the features at Pier 84, the fountain is perhaps at the top of the most-beloved list, especially during the summer months when it provides relief from high temperatures as well as enjoyment. MCB urges our elected leaders to find some funding (on the order of \$250,000) to help the Trust get this fountain going again by the spring of 2012.

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Damyanti Radheshwar
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee