

November 12, 2002

Hon Adrian Benepe  
Commissioner  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
The Arsenal, Central Park  
New York, NY 10021

**Re: Design and Rehabilitation of portion of Chelsea Park fronting on Ninth Avenue**

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 appreciates very much the currently planned rehabilitation of that portion of Chelsea Park that fronts Ninth Ave, and we thank the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) for taking the time to meet with us regarding the design. This letter is to let you know that, in most respects, we are enthusiastic about the proposed design. We also appreciate that the new fencing will be kept to the lower (approximately 4') level that we had preferred. We have only the following handful of concerns and suggestions.

1. We share with DPR our concerns about the entry of food carts into this section of the park, and recommend that bollards be installed in the centers of the gate entrances that would discourage food carts but allow access by pedestrians and baby carriages.
2. We feel that more lighting is needed. Understanding that there are budget constraints, we recommend that simply adding low cost utility fixtures to the DOH building would help enormously at a very small expense.
3. We recommend that the monuments be moved to their original locations.
4. To take advantage of the potential for volunteer help for this park, especially gardening, we suggest that a volunteer coordinator be assigned in conjunction with Partnership for Parks. Penn South has indicated an interest in helping to lead the community effort.
5. We encourage DPR to keep the gates open as often and as late as is reasonably possible.

Commissioner Adrian Benepe  
November 8, 2002  
Page 2 of 2

Notwithstanding the above, we believe that the re-design and rehabilitation of this underutilized portion of Chelsea Park will go a long way into transforming this public space into a true neighborhood amenity, and we look forward to its speedy completion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simone Sindin". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Simone" and last name "Sindin" clearly legible.

Simone Sindin  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

John Doswell  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pamela Frederick  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

cc: Local Elected Officials  
Bob Redmond, Dept. of Parks and Recreation  
Brendan Keany, Penn South General Manager