

January 13, 2003

Commissioner Bill Castro  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Arsenal West  
16 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY

**Re: 59<sup>th</sup> Street Rec Center Interim Plan**

Dear Commissioner Castro,

Thank you for your comments and your enthusiasm for our plans for the 59<sup>th</sup> Street Rec Center. We have high hopes that we can launch and maintain a major fundraising effort for the center, and eventually see our grand plan realized.

In the meantime, the Task Force has agreed on some recommendations for an interim plan that would spend the money in escrow from the original ABC/Tishman restrictive declaration. We had two overlying goals: to make an improvement to the center that would benefit the current members, and to add something to the center that might attract new users and build the center's constituency. We also had a ballpark figure, \$5-6 million, to work with.

In brief, here are our recommendations:

- Build an extension on the west side of center over the current parking lot, to create a new weightroom/fitness center.
- Make basic improvements to the "guts" of the building, i.e., plumbing, electric, etc.
- Renovate the existing locker rooms.
- Renovate exterior façade.
- Fill in the outdoor pool in order to create usable outdoor space for active recreation.

Please find attached the latest rendering of the site, prepared by Richard Dattner & Partners, as well as a cost estimate for both the interim plan and the long-term plan, prepared by Tishman Construction.

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We welcome the opportunity to discuss these plans, as well as our long-term plans for the center, with you and your staff as soon as possible.

Thank you, and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simone Sindin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Simone Sindin  
Chair  
Manhattan Community Board No. 4

John Doswell  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick  
Co-Chair  
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Enclosure

cc: Local Electeds