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## **VIA E-MAIL**

March 15, 2019

Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Ave  
New York, NY, 10065

### **Resolution supporting New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's Design for Renovations to Bellevue South Park**

At the March 13, 2019 Full Board meeting of Manhattan Community Board Six, the Board adopted the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2015 Manhattan Community Board Six (CB6) unanimously passed a [resolution in support of the creation and maintenance of New York City's first Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)-compliant dog run located in Bellevue South Park \(the "Park"\)](#);

**WHEREAS**, the proposed dog run would provide greater safety to park users and the surrounding neighborhood generally by transforming the park from an underutilized, occasionally dangerous and undesirable area, into an active park used year-round;

**WHEREAS**, the Kips Bay Neighborhood Association collected approximately 500-plus signatures in support of a dog run in Kips Bay, since there were no other nearby dog runs;

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, former Council Member Rosie Mendez and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) gave their support for an ADA-compliant dog run, with Council Member Mendez pledging \$2,000,000 in funding for its creation, along with the repaving of the Park's basketball court;

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, former Council Member Mendez's park funding was diverted to another project after bidders raised cost-estimate concerns;

**WHEREAS**, in response to this funding diversion, there was significant media attention, including from local newspaper *Town & Village* and a two-part expose from CBS News,

regarding the decaying quality of life and safety concerns at the Park and the great need for renovations and a dog run;

**WHEREAS**, in 2018, several elected officials stepped in to remedy the funding diversion and allocated \$4.6 million for a complete park renovation and a new dog run, which included Mayor Bill de Blasio allocating \$3,500,000, Councilmember Carlina Rivera pledging \$950,000 and Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer awarding a grant of \$150,000;

**WHEREAS**, DPR built a temporary dog run inside the Park for use until the ADA-compliant dog run and other renovations were completed;

**WHEREAS**, on July 19, 2018, DPR held a scoping meeting to obtain community input on the anticipated \$4.6 million park renovations, including the ADA-complaint dog run;

**WHEREAS**, DPR presented on the design of the renovations to the Park at the January, February, and March 2019 meetings of the CB6 Parks, Landmarks, and Cultural Affairs committee;

**WHEREAS**, at each of these presentations, CB6 Committee members, Friends of Bellevue South Park, KBK9 Bark Park Dog Run Team, Kips Bay Neighborhood Association, and local residents of Kips Bay provided suggested revisions to DPR's design of the renovations;

**WHEREAS**, the proposed design would divide the Park into five zones:

1. A Community Adult Zone containing a repaved and repainted red & blue basketball court, a variety of outdoor exercise equipment located directly outside the Park's southern gates, and additional repaving throughout the Park as necessary
2. A Dog Run Zone containing an ADA-compliant dog run with a black asphalt surface, auto-opening gates, water features with proper drainage, accessible drinking fountains with dog bowl, and a peninsula with benches separating different play areas
3. A Transit & Transition Zone near the center passageway containing an open area with additional lighting (available for tai chi, activity trucks, etc.), wheelchair accessible community flower gardens on both sides of the center walkway, two wheelchair accessible ramps leading into the dog run, and a children's water park area
4. A Children's Water Park Zone with roofed & unroofed play units near water sprinklers, including tic-tac-toe panels and slides wide enough for wheelchairs to enter, and clear signage designating adults-with-children-only areas
5. A Children's Dry Park Zone with similarly designated children-only areas containing new playground and safety surfaces, and a reconstructed wheelchair accessible swing set;

**WHEREAS**, while CB6 Parks, Landmarks, & Cultural Affairs Committee Members, members of local neighborhood associations, and residents of Kips Bay expressed

approval of most of DPR's proposal, they expressed a strong desire for the following to be included in the DPR proposal:

1. Game and card tables with seating for seniors
2. Additional lighting at the bench area (southeast end of wheelchair ramp leading up to basketball courts)
3. Basketball court "jump ball" area, painted the same color as foul-shot areas
4. Clear backboards for the main basketball court
5. Retain the temporary dog run as an addition to new dog run (considering the stairs and gate connecting dog runs)
6. Add agility equipment in a small section of the main dog run
7. Create more open space for larger dogs to sprint and fetch balls
8. Set benches along the inside perimeter of the dog run instead of the center to avoid dog injuries; raise the perimeter fence height if necessary
9. Replant trees that die or fall;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board Six supports DPR's proposed design for renovating Bellevue South Park;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Manhattan Community Board Six urges DPR to incorporate as many of the nine suggested revisions as feasible.

**Vote: 40 In favor   0 Opposed   0 Abstain   0 Not entitled**

Best regards,



Jesús Pérez  
District Manager

Cc: Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Carlina Rivera, Council Member  
Steve Simon, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
Wesley Hamilton, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
Pamela Vassil, Chair, CB6 Parks, Landmarks & Cultural Affairs Committee