



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
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**CICELY HARRIS**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

July 19, 2017

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

Re: Reconstruction of the East 67th Street/Billy Johnson Park, Reconstruction of the East 108th Street Bernard Playground and Reconstruction of the Belvedere Castle

Dear Commissioner Silver,

Manhattan Community Board (CB) 10 is writing this letter in support of the three following privately funded projects; (1) reconstruction of the East 67th Street/Billy Johnson Park, (2) reconstruction of the East 108th Street Bernard Playground and (3) reconstruction of the Belvedere Castle.

These projects are part of the Central Park Conservancy's effort to upgrade all of the sixteen playgrounds that have not been comprehensively rebuilt in the last decade. These proposed projects will raise all of Central Park's playgrounds to the same standard of excellence outlined in "*Plan for Play: A Framework for Rebuilding and Managing Central Park's Playgrounds*". "*Plan for Play*" identifies seven overarching design goals embraced by the three projects: (1) improve the relationship between the playgrounds and the Park, (2) enhance the quality and variety of play experiences, (3) maximize user accessibility, (4) ensure compliance with current safety standards, (5) preserve unique and successful aspects of existing design, (6) practice sustainable design and construction, and (7) design innovative solutions.

The Central Park Conservancy presented before the CB 10 Parks and Recreation Committee at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

These proposed enhancements to the Billy Johnson Park, the Bernard Playground and the Belvedere Castle will promote increased physical health, mental health, social functioning, youth development and will bring improved environment and economic impact to the park community.

It is the recommendation of Manhattan CB10 that reconstruction of the East 67th Street/Billy Johnson Park, the East 108th Street Bernard Playground and the Belvedere Castle proceed without delay.

Sincerely,

Cicely Harris  
Chairperson  
Manhattan Community Board 10

Karen Horry  
Chair  
CB 10 Parks and Recreation Committee

cc: William T. Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, Congress Member  
Hon. Brian Benjamin, New York State Senator  
Hon. Inez Dickens, New York State Assembly Member  
Hon. Bill Perkins, NYC Council Member  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President