



CICELY HARRIS
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CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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November 3, 2021

Gabrielle Fialkoff
Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation
24 West 61st Street
New York, NY 10023

Re: Letter of Recommendation_Colonel Charles Young Playground Renovation

Dear Commissioner Fialkoff,

This letter is to recommend additional upgrades to the Colonel Charles Young Playground (M186) renovations:

1. Upgrade of the handball court
2. Running track around the periphery of the park from 143rd Street to 145th Street is being recommended and would require additional funding
3. A canopy over the chess table area
4. A plaque to commemorate neighborhood resident Odessa Sims who was tragically and fatally wounded while sitting in the park in 2016 was previously discussed. Mrs. Sims' death prompted community outrage and a galvanizing of the community to improve the park's safety
5. A commemorative mural the story of Colonel Charles Young, entailing a portrayal of the Colonel's legacy and that of the Harlem Hellfighters and the 369th Harlem Armory
6. New Adult Fitness Equipment Multi-sensory playground equipment (musical, as well) that is inclusive of children of all levels of ability
7. 2 Picnic tables on 143rd Street side of park - lawn area

The Community Board unanimously passed a full board resolution in support of the renovation on October 5th, 2016.

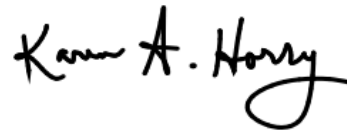
cc:
Cyrus Vance, Jr., Manhattan District Attorney (via e-mail)
Chauncey Parker, NYPD Deputy Commissioner for Community Partnerships (via e-mail)
Honorable Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via e-mail)
Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State (via e-mail)
Honorable Letitia James, NYS Attorney General (via e-mail)
Honorable Bill de Blasio, Mayor of New York City (via e-mail)
Honorable Jumaane Williams, Public Advocate for the City of New York (via e-mail)
Honorable Scott M. Stringer, Comptroller (via e-mail)
Honorable Adriano Espaillat, Congressman (via e-mail)
Honorable Charles E. Schumer, United States Senator for New York (via e-mail)
Honorable Kristen E. Gillibrand, United States Senator for New York (via e-mail)
Honorable Brian Benjamin, New York State Senator (via e-mail)
Honorable Bill Perkins, District 9 – Councilmember (via e-mail)
Honorable Robert J. Rodriguez, Assembly District 68 (via e-mail)
Honorable Inez E. Dickens, Assembly District 70 (via e-mail)
Honorable Al Taylor, Assembly District 71 (via e-mail)

Community Board 10 supports these community-generated enhancements to the existing renovation design plans, as they will promote safe and greater utilization of this vital neighborhood resource. We ask that the Parks Commissioner provide updates as to the progress of this effort and how the Community Board can be of support.

Sincerely,



Cicely Harris
Chairwoman
Manhattan Community Board 10



Karen Horry
Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

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