



## Community Board 12 - Manhattan Washington Heights & Inwood

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Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq., Chairperson  
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager

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March 29, 2016

Hon. Mitchell J. Silver  
Commissioner  
The Arsenal  
830 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver:

On Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at the General Meeting a resolution was passed with a vote of (24 )In Favor; (3)Opposed; (0)Abstain CB#12,M supporting design concept #2 and the placement of its elements as the better overall option at this time, and calling on the Parks CPD to begin the process of developing a detailed design and schematics without delay for further community review by June 1, 2016; and encouraging the Parks CPD to include greater utilization of the wooded area while being sensitive to its current ecology, and to use ground level play elements and play equipment transfers so as to ensure accessibility; and urging the Parks CPD to study the possible acoustical effects on the neighboring residential buildings of moving the basketball courts closer to those residential buildings.

**Whereas:** the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation Capital Projects Division (Parks CPD) appeared before Community Board 12, Manhattan's Parks and Cultural Affairs Committee (PCA) on March 1, 2016 and presented two design concepts for the proposed renovation of Fort Tryon Park's Jacob Javits Playground, herein referred to as design concepts #1 and # 2; and

**Whereas:** each design concept had all elements in common (adult and junior basketball courts, a children's playground, fitness areas, conservation projects, and a place-holder for a comfort station to be installed at a future date when funded), but differed in their respective placement and configuration, and created essential differences in this small area such that Parks CPD requested an approval of one concept so that they can proceed with detailed schematics and measurements and present a near-final design for community input by June 1, 2016; and

**Whereas:** the basic footprint of the playground's retaining walls, fencing and yardarm flagpole would not change (due to the prohibitive expense of doing so), the central north/south "alleé" separating the playground elements from the basketball would be preserved, and the wooded area to the south of the playground has few options for renovation due to the trees' root structure and drip plane; and

**Whereas:** the intent of design concept #1, favored by some community residents, retains the original footprint of the current playground, with children's areas facing the Fort Washington Avenue (east) side and he basketball courts below grade on the Cabrini Boulevard (west) side; and

**Whereas:** the intent of design concept #2, favored by other community residents and Parks CPD, is to retain elements of the original footprint, but flip the locations of the playground and basketball elements to increase the usable space and seamlessly to integrate the playground area with the wooded area which children use for recreation; and

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**Whereas:** progress by the Department of Parks & Recreation and continued community input through the Javits Playground Steering Committee to move this renovation project along was warmly received, the staging of these elements raised some concerns, such as scenic views and aesthetics, parental supervision, complete ADA compliance and play equipment accessibility, expansion of a few areas and noise; and

**Whereas:** there continue to be concerns regarding enforcement issues generally in the playground, as well as the possible negative impact of increased potential noise from moving basketball closer to the residential buildings located across Fort Washington Avenue from the playground, and while the PCA and Parks CPD shares some of these concerns it was concluded that this matter was outside of the scope of this meeting to set audio standards for each design relative to the current footprint and make a fair determination without the results of objective audio engineering tests, relative noise data and recommendations for this project; now, therefore be it

**Resolved:** that Community Board 12, Manhattan supports design concept #2 and the placement of its elements as the better overall option at this time, and calls on the Parks CPD to begin the process of developing a detailed design and schematics without delay for further community review by June 1, 2016, and be it further

**Resolved:** that Community Board 12, Manhattan encourages the Parks CPD to include greater utilization of the wooded area while being sensitive to its current ecology, and to use ground level play elements and play equipment transfers so as to ensure accessibility; and be it further

**Resolved:** that Community Board 12, Manhattan urges the Parks CPD to study the possible acoustical effects on the neighboring residential buildings of moving the basketball courts closer to those residential buildings.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



Shahabuddeen A. Ally, Esq.  
Chairperson

CC: Hon. Bill de Blasio, Mayor  
Hon. Gail Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Letitia James, Public Advocate  
Hon. Scott Stringer, Comptroller  
Hon. Charles B. Rangel, Congressman  
Hon. Bill Perkins, NY State Senator  
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, NY State Senator  
Hon. Herman D. Farrell, Jr., Assembly Member  
Hon. Guillermo Linares, Assembly Member  
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Council Member  
Hon. Mark Levine, Council Member