

Terri Cude, *Chair*  
Daniel Miller, *First Vice Chair*  
Susan Kent, *Second Vice Chair*  
Bob Gormley, *District Manager*



Antony Wong, *Treasurer*  
Keen Berger, *Secretary*  
Erik Coler, *Assistant Secretary*

## COMMUNITY BOARD No. 2, MANHATTAN

3 WASHINGTON SQUARE VILLAGE

NEW YORK, NY 10012-1899

[www.cb2manhattan.org](http://www.cb2manhattan.org)

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Greenwich Village ♦ Little Italy ♦ SoHo ♦ NoHo ♦ Hudson Square ♦ Chinatown ♦ Gansevoort Market

October 22, 2018

William T. Castro  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Arsenal West  
24 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on October 18, 2018, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution regarding proposed new fences for LaGuardia Corner Garden:

### **WHEREAS:**

- 1) The fences that surround LaGuardia Corner Gardens are in need of replacement; and
- 2) Councilmember Chin has earmarked \$350,000 to cover the estimated required budget for new fences and three existing gates to enclose the two plots that constitute the gardens; and
- 3) The Parks Department proposes to replace both existing enclosures with steel panel fences - a 5' high fence on top of a new 6 inch curb on the larger garden area and a 2' high steel bar fence on a new 6 inch curb on the smaller adjacent garden to the north; and
- 4) The community has expressed the need for a higher than currently exists and higher than has been proposed replacement for the 2' fence around the smaller garden space -- preferable a 5' high fence to match the garden to the south -- because the lower fence enables unwanted access that results in greater required maintenance and an undo burden on volunteer gardeners; and
- 5) The Parks Department has pledged to consider the possibility of installing a higher fence around the northern plot, though likely not 5', because of the interference with tree limbs and, potentially, budget constraints.

### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 2, MANHATTAN**

- 1) Appreciates the contribution from Councilmember Chin and the planning and design efforts by the Parks Department

2) Supports this project as long as the design can incorporate the higher fence around the north garden.

**VOTE: Unanimous, with 42 Board Members in favor.**

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Terri Cude, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks & Waterfront Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TC/RG

c: Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman  
Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator  
Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Speaker  
Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member

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William T. Castro  
Manhattan Borough Commissioner  
Arsenal West  
24 West 61<sup>st</sup> Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10023

Dear Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on October 18, 2018, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution regarding ongoing issues in James J. Walker Park:

### **WHEREAS:**

- 1) The park, specifically the space, from Clarkson Street through to Leroy Street, between the baseball/soccer field to the west and the handball courts and playground to the left (closer to the Tony Dapolito Center) is not well-utilized and that many park-goers, particularly during the day, do not follow park rules; and
- 2) Park rules are not displayed prominently, including banning of smoking; and
- 3) Discarded detritus shows that illegal drug activities are taking place (along with smoking); and
- 4) Students use the space during breaks in their school day and after classes for both permitted and prohibited park uses; and
- 5) The administration of City-as-School High School have long claimed they cannot enforce rules on their student body once they have left school grounds; and
- 6) Local residents are hesitant to utilize or even walk through the space and parents of small children are not comfortable visiting the adjacent playground because of some of the behavior exhibited; and
- 7) The Park has not been well-maintained, e.g., torn netting above the handball courts, graffiti on the walls, overflowing trash bins and litter on the ground, etc.; and

- 8) These issues have been going on for years now, but are getting worse, especially now that school is back in session; and
- 9) The Parks Department does not assign any PEP officers to the park but does staff PEP officers inside the adjacent Tony Dapolito Recreation Center; and
- 10) Patrolman from the local 6<sup>th</sup> precinct try to patrol the area, but have 22 city blocks to cover, have visited the school and met with the administration and students with some success in past years, but are increasingly constrained on how they can enforce rules due to the changing interpretations and guidelines for charging minors; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT COMMUNITY BOARD 2, MANHATTAN**

- 1) Appreciates the efforts of the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct to work with the community, including the local schools, to improve the issue-filled situation in this important space for passive recreation in our park-starved neighborhood; and
- 2) Requests that these issues be addressed in order to improve the utilization of the space and make all park-goers more comfortable; and
- 3) Suggests that increased police presence during peak hours, increased visits by Dapolito PEP officers during peak weekday hours, more frequent trash pick-up, removal of graffiti from the walls, repair of handball court nets, and, potentially, programmed activities at appropriate times are needed and would be beneficial.

**VOTE: Unanimous, with 42 Board Members in favor.**

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



Terri Cude, Chair  
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair  
Parks & Waterfront Committee  
Community Board #2, Manhattan

TC/RG

- c:
- Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
  - Hon. Brad Hoylman, NYS Senator
  - Hon. Deborah J. Glick, NYS Assembly Speaker
  - Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
  - Hon. Corey Johnson, NYC Council Speaker