



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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CHRISTINE BERTHET
Chair

ROBERT J. BENFATTO, JR., ESQ.
District Manager

July 25, 2014

Mr. William T. Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
City of New York Parks & Recreation
Arsenal West
24 West 61st Street
New York, NY 10023

Re: Clement Clarke Moore Park

Dear Commissioner Castro,

As you are aware, Clement Clarke Moore Park has recently been experiencing a problem with mosquitoes. Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) would like to thank the Department of Parks for taking swift action and we appreciate the plans for a more permanent solution to be implemented in the fall. MCB4 would also like to take this opportunity to highlight some additional concerns we have regarding this 0.49 acre neighborhood park on the corner of 22nd Street and Tenth Avenue.

One of the primary features of Clement Clarke Moore is the sprinkler area. The two seal spraying sculptures on the corners of the recessed play space has created special memories for countless Chelsea children throughout the years. Park Manager Elliott Sykes reported to the MCB4 Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee there are three drains in the entire park and the drain coverage area is too small. Additional holes have been drilled as a temporary fix for the problem of poor drainage which caused the increase of mosquitos. This issue speaks to the overall design of the park. Clement Clarke Moore has not been renovated since the 1980s and outside of the drainage problems, there are no protected areas for plantings, no tables and seating does not facilitate groups that may want to sit facing each other.

Clement Clarke Moore is a very active neighborhood park with usage across all age groups. The park also has a core of dedicated volunteers. These neighborhood activists raise funds to provide plantings and maintain the sprinklers. Members of the 400 Block Association and Friends of the Park would like to see an expansion of the horticulture, but the current park layout will not ensure their planting will endure.

The volunteers, children, parents and grandparents of the park deserve an updated space that can accommodate their various interests. MCB4 recognizes that the process of redesigning a park may take some time so we request the opportunity to coordinate a discussion between the

Department of Parks and Recreation and the neighborhood stakeholders around the current pressing issues and the next steps towards updating Clement Clarke Moore Park.

Sincerely,



Christine Berthet
Chair



Maarten de Kadt Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee



Delores Rubin Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee

cc: Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
Elliott Sykes, City of New York Parks & Recreation
Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator 97
Richard Gottfried, NY State Assemblymember 98
Jerrold Nadler, Congressman 99
Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President 100
Corey Johnson, NYC Councilmember