



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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COREY JOHNSON
Chair

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

February 4, 2012

William Castro
Manhattan Borough Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Re: Mathews-Palmer Playground

Dear Commissioner Castro,

Manhattan Community Board 4, as you know, strongly supports the restoration of the Arnold Belkin mural in Mathews-Palmer Playground between West 45th and 46th Streets. Residents of the neighborhood, who also support the restoration, are nonetheless concerned that the basketball courts (which are right below the mural) might be taken out of use during the restoration period. Because the handball courts are used less intensively than the basketball courts, a number of them have requested that the handball courts be converted to use as an alternative basketball court during the restoration of the mural. According to park users, the handball players tend to favor the nearby Hell's Kitchen Park and the temporary loss of handball courts at Mathews-Palmer Playground would not be an issue.

To our knowledge, the Palmer-Mathews playground contains the only full-sized basket ball court in the neighborhood, and its central location draws players from all over Hell's Kitchen. If temporary basketball hoops are installed on the handball court, these players will continue to play at the park. The same neighbors strongly believe that their presence helps to discourage illegal activities in this park.

We hope that this request can be accommodated at little cost. We appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Corey Johnson
Chair

John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee

James Jasper
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee

Cc: Elliot Sykes