

December 2, 2004

Commissioner Adrian Benepe
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, NY 10021

Re: Notice of Events within District 4 Parks

Dear Commissioner Benepe,

At our November meeting of the Waterfront & Parks Committee of Manhattan Community Board No 4, we were presented with plans for a holiday market at Columbus Circle by Eldan Scott of Urban Space Management. We appreciate that this event was brought before our board by Mr. Scott, and we're happy to report that no one raised any significant concerns or objections. Thus, this letter is neutral with regard to this event.

What this letter does address, however, is the fact that, according to Mr. Scott, permits from DPR had already been granted and details worked out prior to our November meeting for an event beginning on December 3rd. Please note that the area concerned does, in fact, fall within the boundaries of Manhattan Community Board No 4, even though this area is shared by neighboring community boards. Accordingly, we ask that, in the future, DPR please bring such major events, especially regarding commercial uses within park areas within our boundaries, to the attention of the Board early enough for us to respond if need be.

We appreciate that Urban Space Management did ask to speak to us when it did, given that it was under no obligation to do so. But given the size and length of this operation (from the 3rd to the 24th of December), it would have been more appropriate for this to have been presented to us a month earlier, at our October meeting, allowing us to comment before permits were issued.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff
Chair
Manhattan Community Board No. 4



John Doswell
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Pam Frederick
Co-Chair
Waterfront & Parks Committee

Cc: William Castro
Elected Officials
Applicant