



CITY OF NEW YORK  
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10**  
215 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor—New York, NY 10027  
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**HENRIETTA LYLE**  
Chairperson

**ANDREW LASSALLE**  
District Manager

July 16, 2014

Mr. Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP  
Commissioner  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Ave  
New York, NY, 10065

**Re: Proposed Community Garden at Lots # 5 and 7, Block 1932 – Property of City of NY Assigned to HPD**

Dear Commissioner Silver:

Manhattan Community Board 10 is writing this letter in support of the creation of the Mandela Park Community Garden.

The proposed garden will encompass 265 and 267-269 West 126<sup>th</sup> Street (between Frederick Douglass and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevards) - Block 1932, Lots 5 and 7, respectively. The HPD-controlled lots are contiguous and are a total of 0.149 acres. The group plans to transform the city-owned lot, which is proximal to the Harriet Tubman Learning Center/P. S. 154. The garden will be named in honor of the legendary leader Nelson Mandela. The project vision is to create a garden that will provide solace to residents and educational programming for local area youth in conjunction with local schools.

The Parks Recreation and Transportation Committee and Community raised concerns regarding evidenced lead toxicity of the site and advised that the group should seek help from Green Thumb regarding cleanup issues. All gardening will be done in container beds. Mr. Rene Calvo substantiated that the group has an understanding that the use of the HPD-controlled property is temporary and subject to retraction by HPD. The adjacent Unity Funeral Home is in favor of the project, but does request that there be no noise disturbance that could disrupt their services. Mr. Calvo advised that there will be at least one “Make Music New York” concert scheduled, featuring quiet music which will not be disruptive. There will also be a snow man building contest scheduled during the winter. The Committee and Community sentiment was favorable at the April and June meetings. The Executive Committee voted unanimously in favor of the project on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>.

Manhattan CB 10 is in support of this proposed community garden which will provide healthy and community-building engagement for our residents.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Lyle  
Chairperson  
Manhattan Community Board 10

Cc: Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Inez Dickens, NYC Council  
Larry Scott Blackmon, NYC Parks Deputy Commissioner for Community Outreach