

Special Hearing NYC - Mayor`s Office of Contract Services (MOCS)
July 21, 2021

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PUBLIC HEARING
FRANCHISE AND CONCESSION REVIEW COMMITTEE

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Monday July 21, 2021
2:40 p.m.

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING
Held at:
Thomas Jefferson Recreation Center,
2180 1st Avenue
New York, New York 10029

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APPEARANCES:

Mayor:
Bess Chiu

Clerk:
Gregg Alleyne

Office of the Mayor:
Julie Bero

Corporation Counsel:
Amrita Barth

Office of Management and Budget:
Yvonne Quintian

Comptroller:
John Katsorhis

Borough President of Brooklyn:
Jeffrey Lowell

Borough President of the Bronx:
Mirtha Camille Sabio

Borough President of Manhattan:
Rosaura Mendez

Borough President of Staten Island was
also not present

Department of Transportation Representative:
Rachel Frumin

Department of Parks and Recreation
David Cerron

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CHAIR CHIU: Good afternoon, the
Special Public Hearing will now come
to order.

Will the Clerk please call the
roll.

THE CLERK: Mayor?

CHAIR CHIU: Here.

THE CLERK: Office of the Mayor?

MS. BERO: Here.

THE CLERK: Comptroller?

MR. KATSORHIS: Here.

THE CLERK: Corporation Counsel?

MS. BARTH: Here.

THE CLERK: Office of Management
and Budget?

MS. QUINTIAN: Here.

THE CLERK: President, Borough
of the Bronx?

MS. SABIO: Here.

THE CLERK: President, Borough
of Brooklyn?

MR. LOWELL: Here.

THE CLERK: President, Borough
of Manhattan?

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MS. MENDEZ: Here.

THE CLERK: President, Borough
of Queens?

(No response.)

THE CLERK: Let the record
reflect that the president, Borough of
Queens, is not present.

President, Borough of Staten
Island?

(No response.)

Let the record reflect that the
president, Borough of Staten Island,
is not present.

Representative of the Department
of Transportation?

MS. FURMIN: Here.

THE CLERK: Representative of
the Department of Parks and
Recreation?

MR. CERRON: Here.

CHAIR CHIU: Welcome to the
Special Public Hearing of the
Franchise and Concession Review
Committee. The hearing is being

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conducted today has been publicly advertised in accordance with the New York City Charter and Concession Rules of the City of New York.

We want to be sure that anyone desiring to be heard has an opportunity to do so. All persons wishing to speak, must fill out a request slip, which may be obtained from the clerk. Each speaker will be allotted approximately three minutes. When you testify, please state your name and affiliation, if any.

You may also submit written testimony to the clerk, which will be made part of the record. Any written submissions must be given to the clerk before the close of the public hearing.

If you are unable to join these proceedings in person, please join via the following Microsoft Team dial-information, 1-646-893-7101. Phone conference ID 978066467.

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Again, that dial-in information
is 1-646-893-7101, phone conference ID
978066467.

THE CLERK: At the request of
the hosting agency and in consultation
with the FCRC chair, the calendared
items will be heard in the following
order, calendar item number 1 first,
followed by calendar items number 4,
3, and 2.

CHAIR CHIU: Will the clerk
please call the first calendar item.

THE CLERK: New York City
Department of Transportation Calendar
Item Number 1, In the matter of the
intent to award a concession agreement
to Panda Bubble CP LLC, for the
operation, management, and
maintenance of outdoor food and
beverage concessions at the kiosks at
the South Plaza adjacent to the
Municipal Building at 1 Centre Street
in the borough of Manhattan, for a
five-year term, with three five-year

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renewal options.

CHAIR CHIU: We will hear
testimony from the public, but first
I'd like to ask the members of the
Committee if they have any statements.

On behalf of Manhattan Borough
President.

MS. MENDEZ: Thank you.

On behalf of the Manhattan
Borough President, these kiosks are
located right outside the Municipal
Building. On the menu that was
attached, we saw that there was beer
and alcoholic beverages, that we
didn't know if that is still going to
be the case, that's going to be
part of the menus.

For those of us who work in the
building, we have been very fond of
the frankfurter stand, so -- and the
vendors who are there, so we're
concerned about the competition to
them, that hot dogs is on this menu.

But mostly, also about the

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alcohol and the open container law,
how is that going to be monitored?
And there are some schools in the
area, high schools, and checking IDs
for individuals who are purchasing, we
hope that gets addressed.

Thank you.

THE CLERK: Is the DOT able to
respond to the Manhattan Borough
President's comments?

MS. FURMIN: I note the comment,
and I acknowledge the comments.

CHAIR CHIU: Are there any other
members of the committee who would
like to make a statement?

(No response.)

Will the clerk please call the
next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: We have now heard
all testimony on this calendar item.

CHAIR CHIU: Will the clerk
please call the next calendar item.

THE CLERK: New York City
Department of Parks and Recreation,

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Calendar Item Number 4, in the matter of the intent to award a concession agreement to Wollman Park Partners LLC for the operation and maintenance of the Wollman Rink, Central Park Manhattan, for a five-year term with one six-month renewal option.

CHAIR CHIU: We will take testimony from the public, but first I'd like to ask the members of the Committee if they have any statements.

MS. MENDEZ: Thank you. The Manhattan Borough President submitted a written statement that's in the record. I'm going to read a condensed version for purposes of time.

I, Gale Brewer, Borough President of Manhattan, would like to express my concern regarding the decision of the Department of Parks and Recreation in selecting the Wollman Park Partners LLC as the successful bidder of the operations and renovations of Wollman Rink in

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Central Park for a five-year term.

I want the record to reflect that I requested that today's hearing be postponed to August 9th, the next scheduled FCRC hearing. But Parks was unwilling to do so because of its concern the timeline for a November opening would be jeopardized.

However, a timeline should never take precedence over the need for clarity and transparency. Timelines should and need to be revised when that occurs.

It is my belief that the timeline is unrealistic, and I want the record to reflect that the timeline has been as follows:

February 5th was the issue date for the RFP, Request For Proposals. March 19th, a month later, was the due date. The week of April 5th, there were remote interviews, if Parks decided to do that. And June 9th, the entity that was awarded the RFP was

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formed. Today, in July, we're having this FCRC hearing.

Furthermore, Central Park is a designated scenic landmark. Matters pertaining to scenic sites in Central Park must come for review with the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Public Design Commission. I would like to know how LPC and PDC's approval process will be impacted by this timeline.

I want to state that Wollman Rink should be run by the Central Park Conservancy. For decades, the Central Park Conservancy has been the steward for Central Park, taking care of full maintenance and operation needs, and has the experience and history to be the best operator of Wollman Rink.

It is puzzling and inconsistent that Parks awarded a sole-source contract to the Central Park Conservancy to operate Lasker Rink, but was unwilling to do the same for

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Wollman Rink. The Daily News Editorial Board even agrees that this is a tale of two rinks. See these attached Daily News editorials.

Parks needs to commit to entering into a sole source agreement with the Central Park Conservancy for the operations and the maintenance of the Wollman Rink after the completion of this proposed five-year term by the LLC.

I will list my issues in the form of this oral statement, but my concerns are detailed in my written statement that was submitted to the FCRC. The issues are no prior experience by the LLC, food prices, skating fees, private events, no limits on buyouts, and the Environmental Protection Agency has banned freon, and branding limitations.

In summary, the issues are for the discrepancies between the RFP

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which was conveyed to the borough president in the meeting, and the borough president is requesting that these discrepancies be addressed.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR CHIU: Thank you, Manhattan.

Comptroller.

MR. KATSORHIS: Thank you.

I will share concerns on behalf of New York City, the office of Scott Stringer, regarding Department of Parks and Recreation selection of Wollman Park Partners LLC as the successful bidder for the operation and renovations of Wollman Rink in Central Park for a five-year term.

While the City looks forward to its new concessionaire at Wollman Rink, the proposed agreement has left out a great deal of items offered by WPP that would benefit the City and patrons of the rink.

There are three main areas of

1
2 concern: One, the rates offered to
3 the patrons; two, the inclusion of
4 public programs and opportunities for
5 more equitable enjoyment of the venue;
6 and three, the capital improvements at
7 this location over the course of this
8 agreement. I'd like to share the
9 Comptroller's concerns in each of
10 these areas.

11 The rates. The agreement
12 includes initial hours of operation
13 and rate schedule for admission and
14 rental fees; however, the agreement
15 does not allow for the City or the
16 public to understand the total cost of
17 a visit to this location, such as cost
18 of food and beverages. A sample menu
19 was included in this proposal but was
20 not included in this agreement. If
21 prices are not included in this
22 agreement, the City cannot hold the
23 contractor accountable over the
24 five-year contract, making it
25 imperative that fair and reasonable

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prices are locked before the contract is finalized.

The rates to be charged for public access to Wollman Rink appear to be at least double the rates of the last agreement with the prior concessionaire. This may make visiting the rink cost-prohibitive for many local families, which would be an unacceptable outcome.

This contract does not include the potential for a percentage of gross revenue, which would allow the City to benefit from any unexpected increase in revenue for the facility. Historically, that has been the case with this particular rink, and we see no reason why this structure, which has benefited the City financially in the past, should not continue in this new agreement.

Two, public programs, accessibility, and inclusion. In its best and final offer, WPP offered to

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2 enhance inclusion and accessibility by
3 ensuring that 94 percent of the events
4 are publicly available and only six
5 percent of the events be designated as
6 private and occurring on less popular
7 days of the week. They also included
8 deriving 70 percent of the revenue
9 through 25 percent of events, ensuring
10 that 75 percent of events can focus on
11 programming that caters to diverse
12 organizers and audiences that
13 otherwise might not have access to
14 such a venue when revenue is the
15 driving factor.

16 If the remedies here with
17 pricing offered individuals and
18 families affiliated with its
19 non-profit partners, that would
20 include free and discounted tickets
21 for skating periods, and lessons
22 during winter months, and ticketed
23 concerts and sporting events and
24 comedy shows during the summer months,
25 and donating dedicated time, ice time

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on weekend mornings for non-profit partners for programming, practice, and lessons. We urge Parks to include these details in the contract to ensure equitable enjoyment of this venue.

Also, in a prior concession agreement, these provisions for the use of the facilities by youth and community groups with guaranteed access and reduced rates. However, it does not appear that such provisions are included in this agreement, which is short-sighted.

With regard to capital improvements, there are also concerns regarding the capital improvements listed in this agreement. The language included in Exhibit B of the agreement covering capital improvements is much less transparent than the previous agreement. In order to ensure the City receives the benefits of the capital improvements

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2 that it deserves, it's important to
3 itemize those improvements and all the
4 estimated costs. WPP also offered, in
5 its best and final offer, an approach
6 to, quote, elevate the guest
7 experience, end quote, including, one,
8 introducing a new ticketing system for
9 guests to order tickets, skate
10 rentals, and food and beverages before
11 even entering the site.

12 And two, installing contactless
13 devices throughout the venue to
14 promote the highest standards of
15 safety and wellness. We agree that
16 these offered enhancements would
17 benefit the City and many patrons
18 would be expected to frequent this
19 venue again. I'd urge Parks to review
20 the details of the proposed offering
21 by WPP, and include them in the final
22 agreement.

23 Given the fact that the RFP did
24 not indicate a minimum or sufficient
25 amount for capital improvements for

1
2 the concession, it is unclear how
3 Parks ultimately determined that \$7.25
4 million was sufficient, especially
5 when WPP also included approximately
6 \$14 million in capital improvements in
7 its original proposal. WPP stated in
8 its proposal regarding ice operation
9 that, quote, focus on sustainability
10 will also be a focus to our ice
11 operations, including an emphasis on
12 chemical management, which would shift
13 to environmentally-friendly
14 refrigerant, end quote. Surprisingly,
15 this was not found in the draft
16 agreement. Given the importance of
17 ensuring ongoing ice operation at the
18 rink, we ask Parks to consider
19 including language that addresses an
20 adequate sustainable supplier of
21 refrigerant.

22 The Comptroller's office will be
23 submitting a list of questions to
24 better understand the items that I
25 have raised today.

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And, in closing, we urge Parks
to work with our office and other FCRC
members to ensure the final agreement
is in the best interest of the City
and its residents.

Thank you.

CHAIR CHIU: Thank you,
Comptroller.

Are there any other members of
the committee who wish to make a
statement?

(No response.)

Will the clerk please --

THE CLERK: Department of Parks
and Recreation.

MR. CERRON: Thank you, everyone.
I would just like to generally say, of
course, we always seek to work with
the Comptroller's office and the
borough president's office, and this
situation will be absolutely no
different. We look forward to the
questions from the comptroller's
representative, and we will follow up.

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There are several items, so I'm not going to go over each one of them.

Look, this is the City of New York, everybody wants things to be the best. They want them to be better than they were before, and we're always having new goals, new standards. We actually think that is part of Wollman Partners' goal, they want this to be the best that it can possibly be for everybody in New York City. We have done everything we can do to get the contract ready for this date to move forward and have the ice rink open for November for the public, for all the people of New York, for tourists, for everybody who is able to come and enjoy it. We are looking forward to that. But that doesn't mean that work stops today, this is not the end of the process, this is just the beginning. So to the extent there is a need for more clarity, if there's confusion, you need answers or

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prices for food items or events or anything else, of course we're going to be willing to answer those things.

You know, I would also point out that events, prices, those are subject to Parks' approval. We take that seriously. We will be looking at that as we get closer to an opening date.

I also just want to mention, this is a very, very, very good proposal for the City. There is lots of non-profit partnership work being done, community-owned businesses to provide food services. We will also be partnering with Ice Hockey in Harlem, will be partnering with Figure Skating, YMCA, with the Boys Club, with a host of non-profit partners throughout the City to provide young people with activities, engage them, introduce them to this facility, if they haven't been introduced to it before. So while there is always more work to do, there is always more goals

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and standards that we're all willing
to achieve together.

I think it is also important to,
you know, recognize there is a spirit
of partnership in this proposal and a
desire to make the experience for City
residents better and make it more
accessible, and make it more
accessible for tourists.

The WPP is an organization which
has a lot of experience providing
programming, operating ice rinks, both
professionally and for community use.
It is not taking any profits. The
current profits will go back to the
facility, they go back to subsidizing
programs.

So we think there are positives
here, we think, we think there is a
strong civic-minded operation. We
look forward to working with our
partners to achieve that.

CHAIR CHIU: Will the clerk call
the next person who wishes to testify.

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THE CLERK: Liz Neumark.

Please provide your name and affiliation for the record.

MS. NEUMARK: Good afternoon.

Before I start, I just want to thank all of our civic leaders and servants for everything you have done to help shepherd the City through the last year and a half, we're really grateful. Thank you.

Good afternoon. My name is Liz Neumark, and I'm the founder of Great Performances, one of New York's leading eateries and hospitality management companies.

We represent a diverse range of event professionals, partners, and clients and operate cafes and restaurants, concessions, and amenity programs for nonprofit and corporate institutions for Parks, New York City.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak today about the future of Wollman Rink, and what it

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would mean to companies like mine and
all New Yorkers.

As one of New York's most
historic and popular venues, Wollman
Rink should be a welcoming and
inviting place for everyone, whether
that's through our inclusive events
and programming, diverse food and
beverage options that reflect our
city's many cultures and cuisines, or
increasing the rink's accessibility
for all ages and backgrounds.

When selecting a new operator
for Wollman, the City should recommend
ones that not only understand the
importance of celebrating cultures and
emphasizing equity inclusion, but
actively make those core tenets of our
plan. And that is what Wollman Park
Partners proposes for the future of
the rink.

WPP's vision for Wollman is to
turn the rink into a vast public
space, where people from all

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backgrounds and boroughs can feel welcome. It has already begun forming partnerships with community and neighborhood organizations, including Great Performances, to achieve and rev up to its commitment of prioritizing diverse vendors and programming.

Through our potential partnership with Wollman Park Partners, Great Performances will provide opportunities and exposure to businesses and entrepreneurs from across New York City doing work through our food and beverage operations and help make Wollman a culturally vibrant and relevant space for all New Yorkers while supporting our small businesses.

I commend the Parks Department's decision and fully support its recommendation for Wollman Park Partners as its operator.

Thank you.

THE CLERK: Melba Wilson.

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Please provide your full name
and affiliation for the record.

MS. WILSON: Hi. My name is
Melba Wilson. I'm the proud owner of
Melba's Restaurant here in Harlem and
Melba's Catering here in Harlem.

Like a lot of you, I was born,
bred and buttered right here in New
York City. My family, we often took
trips through the Park, and we would
end up at Wollman Rink. Like some of
you, I know a lot of you went in, but
my family, we had one working parent
and three kids, and my mom, my mom and
dad, we couldn't afford to go into
Wollman Rink. So what we did was, we
would lean on the rail and we would
watch the kids, the other kids skate.

What interests me about Wollman
Park Partners is the fact that this is
an inclusive group. This is a
diverse -- this is a group that does
not leave little kids that look like
me on the outside of the rink, looking

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in. This is a group that lends itself to people like me, small business owners, who started out as a cashier and I'm now the president of the New York City Hospitality Alliance. It gives operators exposure and gives us opportunity.

Liz and I together, were able to create a cause that is extremely effective. You have to know, I'm born and raised in this community, there is no way I would ever out-price my community. The food at Melba's has been the same price pretty much over the last 18 years, and that was one of the reasons that I am strongly supporting this project because I am a partner. We look to bring small businesses from the five boroughs into this organization. When you look at opportunities, I wonder where my business would have been if I had a partner like WPP to take me on in such an early stage of my business.

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I stand here before you asking
to humbly, as I do, support WPP and
our efforts to, not to talk about New
York City being a melting pot, but to
be a part of the melting pot of this
City.

Thank you so much.

THE CLERK: Michael Belton.

Please provide your full name
and affiliation for the record.

MR. BELTON: Good afternoon.

Michael Belton, I'm Melba's Restaurant
CFO. I have been working with Melba
for about seven years now. I'm gonna
do a little bit of the boring part of
this, and talk about the numbers and
the people we employ at Melba's.

Right now 70 percent of our
people, which is unique in a
restaurateur establishment, 70 percent
of our employees have returned back to
work and have been working for over
six months. Most of them -- employees
choose to stay out, obviously, because

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of unemployment benefits, but most of them have returned. The average employee of Melba's, exclusive of the executives that work there, the average salaries are \$47,358 for the year. That is well above minimum wage.

Melba believes in taking care of the community, that's the reason why she joined this project. You know, margins in restaurants are historically low, between four and fourteen.

I wouldn't say we religiously have conversations about increasing pricing, but Melba refuses to entertain it because she doesn't want to price out the people of her community. So that chicken has been the same price for at least three years. It will probably be for the next three years. So we find new ways to, kind of, reduce some costs.

So, you know, when it comes to

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you know, pricing, I heard a lot about pricing today, it's hard to navigate post-COVID because prices of commodities are enough to sink you, you know, two, three months ago, lumber was one hundred percent or two hundred percent up, now it seems to have scaled back. We just don't know, so it's hard for us to gauge it, but we fight every day to keep those prices as low as we can, so rest assured, we will do the same for Wollman Rink.

Thank you.

And those salaries do not include tipped employees.

THE CLERK: Reginald Warren.

Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MR. WARREN: Good afternoon, Everyone. Reginald Warren, I am the caterer events director at Melba's Restaurant.

A lot of what sentiments I share

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have already been expressed, so I will keep this brief.

I can speak to, obviously, as long as I have been there and serving the community, we offer fair prices. Our clients are majority churches and schools and businesses in the community, so maintaining prices and competitive rates is something that I must do to keep my job.

The vendors that we work with are members of the community, small businesses of the community, woman-owned businesses from our restaurants to our bakery partners to the labor that they use, to even vendors that we use have become partners with us, so I have no doubt that's all of these business operations and the sentiment of serving their community and keeping with serving the community will continue with Wollman Park. I'm in full support of WPP for this project.

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THE CLERK: Sharon Cohen.

Please provide your full name
and affiliation for the record.

MR. STAMOULIS: We're at
capacity. There are folks waiting to
testify outside. I would ask anyone
who has already testified or anyone
who has already been heard to cycle
outside, so they are able to testify.

Thank you very much.

MS. COHEN: Hi, everyone, I'm
Sharon Cohen, I'm the founder and CEO
of Figure Skating in Harlem. Before
Melba leaves, I have to take my hat
off to Melba because you have been so
good to our community and our
organization, and we greatly
appreciate it. I also want to thank
you for your service tonight.

Figure Skating in Harlem is the
first and only organization in the
City and the world for girls of color
that combines power education with
access to the sport and art of figure

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skating.

As I'm here -- right up the block here in East Harlem -- 30 years ago to meet some girls trying to figure skate in a basement. We started walking from here to Central Park.

Twenty five-years ago figure skating in Harlem was founded -- sorry about that -- I came from the world of competitive skating and I worked with girls in Harlem, to now serving hundreds of girls annually on the ice and in classrooms. Our staff is run by more than seventy-five coaches, teachers, tutors, and outside volunteers. And our girls have gone on to graduate from college, the last five years, a hundred percent of our students have gone on to graduate from high school and went to college.

The biggest problem we face with our goal in building young female leaders of color is lack of ice time

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because you can't gain the benefits of learning how to ice skate if you don't have ice.

With this issue, I would say to you is the new operators of Wollman Rink, Wollman Park Partners -- I'm not sure about this mic, but I'll keep trying -- that Figure Skating of Harlem's partnering with Wollman Park Partners, as well as additional ice skating non-profits, will give us the access to this precious ice time that we need in the winter season, so we can expand and reach more girls of color.

We want to expand our leadership program and our academic program and provide them the means to achieve their goals and expand. We will also have employment opportunities within our organization. With Wollman Park Partners, planning is essential to help us realize this goal, and I'm proud that Figure Skating in Harlem is

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a community partner.

As part of the proposal, WPP will remove the barriers that impede New Yorkers from all boroughs from enjoying Wollman Rink by prioritizing inclusive programming growing its community partners, employing vendors, small businesses to support the rink's operation and much more.

As we emerge from the pandemic, it's important, now more than ever, that we move forward in projects that put inclusion and diversity and access above profits.

Ninety percent of children's winter sports are Caucasian.

Thank you. I'll end by saying I fully support Wollman Park Partners as the new operator and I encourage you to support it.

THE CLERK: Madeline McGrory.

Would you please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

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MS. McGRORY: Hello. My name is
Madeline McGrory, Senior Policy
Planning Analyst to the Real Estate
Board of New York.

REBNY strongly supports the
intent to award a concession agreement
to Wollman Park Partners LLC for
operation and maintenance of Wollman
Rink.

Wollman Park Partners, in
partnership with industry
professionals with decades of
experience that show a clear ability
to operate and maintain the rink,
while also providing sustainable
improvements.

This partnership is an important
integral role in maintenance of public
assets. WPP will provide
opportunities to all New Yorkers by
reinvesting all profits in their youth
and local community that traditionally
exist in these assets.

The partnership represents an

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opportunity for the private sector's non-profits and the government to work collaboratively to give back to New Yorkers.

As you've seen in the testimony here today, WPP will be working with non-profits, including the groups Great Performances, YMCA, Boys Club of New York, Figure Skating in Harlem, and Ice Hockey in Harlem, and Green City Force to provide opportunities and access to the rink through the free services for anyone to use, as well as employment and educational programming, among other benefits.

The WPP proposal is a symbol of the recovery of New York City, signaling that the City is bouncing back from the pandemic while supporting the City's improving economy. The proposal accomplishes strengthened sustainability, improved access to a public asset, reinvests in the community with a strong

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willingness to work with others to
support the rebound of New York City,
all while providing appropriate
expertise to operate and maintain an
ice skating rink.

Thank you for the opportunity to
provide comments today.

THE CLERK: Megan Brown.

Please provide your full name
and affiliation for the record.

MS. BROWN: Good afternoon,
everybody. My name is Megan Brown.
I'm here to represent Melba's
Restaurant in Harlem as the general
manager. I will try to keep this
brief.

I just want to say that I am
pleased to support WPP and proud for
just the positive opportunities that
they're going to provide to so many.

Just speaking from an employment
standpoint, this is a great
opportunity to employ those that have
been in such a dark space. As we all

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know, this past year and a half and then some, jobs have been scarce or non-existent, so having the opportunity to create and bring in so many jobs inclusive of people young and old, especially or young.

People of all different cultures in this community, as well as New York City worldwide, we know that representation is key, it's important. You want to do more, achieve more when you see someone who looks like you, who comes from the same background as you, doing something and being seen and placed in a position, so I'm happy to support and excited that so many jobs will be provided, and not just jobs in the restaurant industry, but in other areas and avenues as well. But also teaching people key job skills to put forth in other avenues and other areas of their life, their workforce, you name it.

I'm happy that this is in the

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works, and I'm hopeful that we'll push forward and continue to help the community get back to a brighter space and put this dark spot behind us.

Thank you.

THE CLERK: Melik Garvin.

Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MR. GARVIN: Malik Garvin.

Hello everyone, I'm the program director of Ice Hockey in Harlem. We're a non-profit, locally based, we have been in service for over 30 years. We service over 250 boys and girls in the Harlem community. We provide them with ice hockey equipment and the full ice hockey season for no charge. And our goal is to improve the academic and athletic opportunities throughout their lives.

I'm the director, I'm also an alumnus of the program. I went to Sundance School over there, the Boys Club. This community is my community

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and it is very important to me what
Wollman Park Partners does and what
they offer to do, which is help us.

We need this. We have no viable
solutions. We have mostly low-income
families who cannot get on a bus or
get in cars and can go elsewhere. For
many of our participants, playing ice
hockey and being a person of color is
something that people in the community
don't get to do. And the
opportunities arise from that are the
centerpiece of their life.

So I appreciate everything
everyone is doing to make this happen.
In the meantime, we're very excited
about it, we're optimistic about it
and again, 250 boys and girls, we
could serve as many as we want, but we
would like this ice time right here in
the neighborhood and we need it.

Thank you.

THE COURT: We have now heard
all testimony on this calendar item.

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CHAIR CHIU: Thank you.

Will the clerk please call the next calendar item.

THE CLERK: Calendar Number 3 in the matter of the intent to award a concession agreement to Central Amusement International for the operation and maintenance of the Friedsam Memorial Carousel with the option to operate one mobile gifts and souvenirs concession and up to three mobile food concessions in Central Park, Manhattan, for a five-year term.

CHAIR CHIU: We will take testimony from the public, but first I'd like to ask the members of the committee if they have any statements.

(No response.)

Will the clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: We have now heard all testimony on the calendar item.

CHAIR CHIU: Will the clerk please call the next calendar item.

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THE CLERK: New York City
Department of Parks and Recreation,
Calendar Number 2, in the matter of
the intent to enter into an amendment
of a concession agreement between the
New York City Department of Parks and
Recreation, the Randall's Island Park
Alliance, Inc., formerly known as
Randall's Island Sports Foundation,
Inc, and Sportime Clubs LLC d/b/a
Sportime, formerly known as Island
Tennis L.P., for the expansion,
renovation, operation, maintenance and
management of a year-round tennis
facility at Randall's Island Park,
Manhattan.

CHAIR CHIU: We will take
testimony from the public, but first
I'd like to ask the members of the
committee if they have any statements.

(No response.)

Will the clerk please call the
next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: We have now heard

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all testimony from this calendar item.

CHAIR CHIU: If no one else
wishes to speak, that concludes
today's hearing.

MS. BERO: I would like her to
be able to testify. The young girl.

CHAIR CHIU: My understanding is
that there is one more person who
wishes to testify on Calendar item
number 4.

MS. DUNN: So hi, I'm Chelsea
Dunn.

I go to Wollman. I have been
training there for about three years
now. And I just want to say that I
really hope that they keep Academy.
Academy is these classes where we have
these group classes and the skaters
have a nice community, and we learn
all together in a group class. And it
provides a lot of people the
opportunity to make friends and build
a community. And it really got me
through the pandemic because, you

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know, Wollman is outdoors, they
allowed it. I was so happy.

And I really hope that they
continue Academy because I want to
keep skating with my friends. I want
to practice with my friends. And I
want to learn with my friends.

And I want more people to access
that because skating is kind of a
really solo sport and private lessons
are super expensive, so it's really
nice that they have group classes.
So.

I really hope they continue
Academy because I love it. I want to
have fun. And I met a lot of people
that I never thought I would meet in
school.

Yeah, I would like a lot of
communities of color to have access of
that too because it's nice to have
more people of color in a
predominantly white space. I want
more people of color to have access to

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the things I have access to. It's a very welcoming community and they would like other people to see it too. We don't care where you go to, where you live, which school, because I'm not part of Manhattan. I live in Queens and I like drive 30 minutes just to train there, and, yeah.

Thank you.

CHAIR CHIU: Thank you.

THE CLERK: One additional point of clarification with Department of Parks and Recreation.

MR. CERRON: Apologies.

Just a technical matter about the WPP contract.

I just want to point out an error on page 4 of the agreement. The final Whereas clause that reads "Whereas Parks and Licensee, upon approval from the Franchise and Concessions Review Committee, seek to enter into this license agreement and specify price and obligation with

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respect to the operation, maintenance
of Wollman Rink." We will delete this
paragraph. That's all. Thank you.

THE CLERK: We have now heard
all testimony on this calendar item.

CHAIR CHIU: If no one else
wishes to speak, that concludes
today's hearing.

We ask that the reporter make
the entire public hearing agenda,
which was made publicly available and
distributed at the hearing, part of
the final record of the proceeding.

(TIME NOTED: 3:26 p.m.)

This hearing is now closed.
Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss:
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

I, STEPHANIE O'KEEFFE, a Reporter and
Notary Public within and for the State of New York,
do hereby certify that the within is a true and
accurate transcript of the proceedings taken on July
12, 2021.

I further certify that I am not
related to any of the parties to this action by
blood or marriage, and that I am in no way
interested in the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
set my hand this 21st day of July, 2021.



Stephanie O'Keeffe