

September 19, 2007

Hon. Adrian Benepe  
Commissioner  
Department of Parks  
The Arsenal, Central Park  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

On behalf of the QCC I want to thank you and your staff for coming and speaking with us this past Monday. You provided us with a detailed update on the current status of our parks and a look into the future. We appreciate the efforts and hard work you and your staff have done in the past six years.

The QCC has been a major supporter of increased funding of our parks for the routine maintenance of park infrastructure. This will remain a priority for us. You heard several suggestions on suggested parks' acquisitions in Queens, Klein Farm, Michael's field, Udalls Cove to name a few. We do understand that the Councilperson needs to bring the funding to the table, but we need you to signal the Councilpersons that Parks is receptive to receiving the land. I would ask you to send that message to the Queens delegation, and we will pursue the respective elected officials.

Concessions in parks remains a concern for Queens residents. Green spaces should remain green spaces, especially in our large parks. We have advocated for a reduction in the size of concessions which are subject to ULURP; I hope you look at our platform on this subject and join us in this reform. I believe you recognize that concessions while beneficial are also a dangerous slope if not carefully vetted on the basis of service to park visitors rather than revenue.

While the subject did not come up, unleashed dogs in parks other than fenced dog runs is still a problem in Queens, and I speak as a former dog owner.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with your hard-working staff.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

SEAN M. WALSH  
President