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COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 2, MANHATTAN

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July 25, 2014

William T. Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Arsenal West, 24 West 61st Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10023

Dear Borough Commissioner Castro:

At its Full Board Committee meeting on July 24, 2014, Community Board #2, Manhattan adopted the following resolution:

Resolution Regarding the Enforcement of Rules and Guidelines in Washington Square Park

WHEREAS

1. The restoration of Washington Square Park has been well-received by the community, resulting in increased use of and attendance in the park;
2. The Parks Department has tried to balance enforcement of citywide rules with requests from the local community to allow free expression in the park;
3. In recent weeks, CB2 has received an increasing number of complaints about skateboarders, loud music, and people in the park after the posted closing time (including entering after the park has been closed);
4. CB2 is very concerned about hazardous skate boarding activity in the park, the risk it poses to others in the park, and the damage it is causing, especially near the Garibaldi statue;
5. CB2 has heard many complaints from park users and neighbors regarding the disturbance caused by constant drumming, the playing of recorded music by performers, and loud horn playing (even when not amplified), especially on weekends;
6. The aforementioned is drowning out quieter musicians;
7. CB2 recognizes the need for improvement of the appearance and effectiveness of the means of

closing park entrances, for increased security and enforcement of posted closing time.

Therefore it is resolved, that CB2 requests:

1. that the Parks Department propose physical and operational means of controlling these disturbing activities, including stronger and more consistent enforcement of existing park rules, while working with CB2 and park users to develop approaches tailored to the special needs of the park,
2. that the Parks Department review its current policies and consider changes that would limit noise and disturbance in the park,
3. that the Parks Department work with CB2, the local police department, and other interested community members, to address the need for improved enforcement of park hours, including installation of ways to close the entrances that are more secure, effective, and attractive.

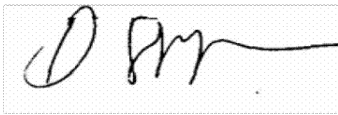
VOTE: Passed

For: 30 Full Board Members

Against: 7 Full Board Members (Berger, Smith, Steward, Meadows, Diether, Russo, Conner)

Please advise us of any decision or action taken in response to this resolution.

Sincerely,



David Gruber, Chair
Community Board #2, Manhattan



Richard Caccappolo, Chair
Parks, Recreation & Open Space Committee
Community Board #2, Manhattan

DG/EM

- c:
- Hon. Jerrold Nadler, Congressman
 - Hon. Brad Hoylman, NY State Senator
 - Hon. Deborah J. Glick, Assembly Speaker
 - Hon. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President
 - Hon. Margaret Chin, Council Member
 - Hon. Corey Johnson, Council Member
 - Hon. Rosie Mendez, Council Member