



City of New York Community Board #1, Queens

The Pistilli Grand Manor
45-02 Ditmars Boulevard, LL Suite 1025
Astoria, N.Y. 11105
Tel: 718-626-1021, Fax: 718-626-1072
E-mail: qn01@cb.nyc.gov

Donovan Richards Jr.
Borough President, Queens
Khaleel Bragg
Director, Community Boards
Evie Hantzopoulos
Chairperson
Florence Koulouris
District Manager

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chairperson
Evie Hantzopoulos
First Vice Chairperson
Amy Hau
Second Vice Chairperson
Thomas Ryan
Third Vice Chairperson
Corinne Wood-Haynes
Executive Secretary
Daniel Aliberti
Sergeant-at-Arms
Tyrone Gardner

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Airport
RoseMarie Poveromo
Business Economic Development
Consumer Affairs
Dino Panagoulas
Education/Library/Youth Services
Diana Limongi
Environmental/Sanitation
Antonella Di Saverio
Health & Human Services
Judy Trilivas
Housing
Katie Ellman
Land Use & Zoning
Gerald Caliendo
Elizabeth Erion
Legal, Legislative, Parliamentary
Rod Townsend
Office-Staff/Budget/PR
Marie Torniali
Parks/Recreation/Cultural
Kathleen Warnock
Public Safety
Ann Bruno
Antonio Meloni
Transportation
Dominic Stiller

BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

George Alexiou
Louise Bordley
Jean Marie D'Alleva
Tenzin Dechen
Mackenzi Farquer
Frank Fredericks
Dean O. Feratovic
Adam Fisher-Cox
Tyrone Gardner
Shahenaz Hamde
Christopher Hanway
Brian Hunt
Vanessa Jones-Hall
Cristina Lastres
Ethan Lowens
Huge Ma
Athanasios Magoutas
Jeffrey Martin
Brian Martinez
Amin Mehedi
Andreas Migias
Doreen Mohammed
Stella Nicolaou
Juliet Payabyab
Margot Riphagen
Marisela Santos
Thomas Wright
Corinne Wood-Haynes
Rosemary Yelton

March 14, 2024

Honorable Jacqueline Langsam
Commissioner – Queens Borough Parks
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
The Overlook
80-30 Park Lane
Kew Gardens, New York 11415

Dear Commissioner Langsam,

Our office is writing to you regarding the BIG Reuse. On February 22, 2021 we sent Parks Department Commissioner Docket a letter (enc.). This letter outlined Community Board 1, Queens position on the dire need to maintain the composting site. As previously stated there was overwhelming support and this letter sent is still relevant today.

In the previous letter we spoke about the investments made in this location and the positive national acclaim so we reiterate this site should be protected and displacing them is not the answer. That sentiment stands today.

Our office is asking you to review the enclosed letter and take a hard long look at the support the BIG Reuse has from not only the direct community but the Borough of Queens.

Our office looks forward to a positive outcome for this vital service.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Florence Koulouris

ENC.



City of New York
Community Board #1, Queens
 The Pistilli Grand Manor
 45-02 Ditmars Boulevard, LL Suite 1025
 Astoria, N.Y. 11105
 Tel: 718-626-1021, Fax: 718-626-1072
 E-mail: qn01@cb.nyc.gov

Donovan Richards
Borough President, Queens
 Maricela Cano
Director, Community Boards
 Marie Torniali
Chairperson
 Florence Koulouris
District Manager

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marie Torniali
Chairperson
 Edward Babor
First Vice Chairperson
 Amy Hau
Second Vice Chairperson
 Richard Khuzami
Third Vice Chairperson
 Andy Aujla
Executive Secretary
 Thomas Ryan
Sergeant-at-Arms

COMMITTEES & CHAIRPERSONS

Airport
 RoseMarie Poveromo
Community & Economic Development
 Rod Townsend
Consumer Affairs
 Eric Mouchette
Education/Library/Youth Services
 Andre Stith
Environmental Protection
 Antonella Di Saverio
Health & Human Services
 Judy Trilivas
 Daniel Aliberti
Housing
 Evie Hantzopoulos
Land Use & Zoning
 Gerald Caliendo
 Elizabeth Erion
Legal, Legislative, Parliamentary
 Loren Amor
Office-Staff/Budget/PR
 Marie Torniali
Parks/Recreation/Cultural
 Katie Ellman
 Kathleen Warnock
Public Safety
 Ann Bruno
 Antonio Meloni
Transportation
 Robert Piazza
 Mitchell Waxman

February 22, 2021

Honorable Michael Dockett
 Commissioner – Queens Borough Parks
 NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
 The Overlook
 80-30 Park Lane
 Kew Gardens, New York 11415

Dear Commissioner Dockett,

Our Community is keenly aware of the dire need to upgrade and maintain Queensbridge Baby Park located at Queensboro Bridge, 41st Road, 40th Avenue between The East River, Vernon Boulevard, and 21st Street for decades the Park fell into disrepair. The residents of Queensbridge Houses have advocated for the upgrade of the Park. Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer advocated and received Mayoral funding for this project to come to final fruition. Western Queens is in dire need of green space and the upgrade for outdoor activity has never been more needed. The recent Pandemic has proven this fact as we lack enough green space.

Western Queens is known as asthma alley and our Community is extremely aware of environmental issues. Our residents are interested in reclaiming the waterfront wherever possible. In addition, recycling is a very important issue within the district. Prior to the Pandemic our district was targeted to begin participating in the Department of Sanitation Composting Program. Our residents were extremely excited that this program was finally arriving within our boundaries. Our residents are keenly aware of how good composting is for the environment and they advocate for composting. Queensbridge Baby Park is located on the waterfront and had been forgotten for so long. Then, the BIG Reuse came along in 2011 and repurposed a desolate area where dumping had been occurring. Their vision for the space slowly became a reality. They breathed life back into the space.

Following their proposed Capital improvement plans for Queensbridge Baby Park, NYC Parks held a community visioning session on January 28, 2021 where community members shared their ideas for the project. Overwhelmingly, we heard from individuals who want the BIG Reuse compost processing site to remain at its current location. The community understands it has been operating next to the Park for many years.

The Parks Department is attempting to relocate the compost site, stating they require the land for their operations equipment. The residents understand that this cost could be more by having to find another location for the Parks Department parking. However, uprooting the BIG Reuse would be a devastating blow to NYC's composting infrastructure which has been badly bruised since the pandemic.

AMENDED

BOARD MEMBERS (cont.)

Rose Anne Alafogiannis
 George Alexiou
 Louise Bordley
 Irak Dahir Cehonski
 Jean Marie D'Alleva
 Mackenzi Farquer
 Dean O. Feratovic
 Shahenaz Hamde
 Helen Ho
 Pauline Jannelli
 Vanessa Jones-Hall
 Nancy Konipol
 Jerry Kril
 Hannah Lupien
 Jeffrey Martin
 Amin Mehedi
 Stella Nicolaou
 Norma Nieves-Blas
 Mary O'Hara
 Dino Panagoulas
 Juliet Payabyab
 Yawne Robinson
 Rodolfo Sarchese
 Dominic Stiller

Due to the investments made in this location and the positive national acclaim this site should be protected, displacing them is not the answer. The two uses can and should be accommodated. Their site brings in 1000 volunteers a year and hundreds of tour participants. Once Parks turns their compost site into operations it will no longer be accessible to the public. Our community desires more accessible space not less. Their site provides compost to over 200 community groups, Green Thumb, and Queens Parks that will no longer be available if they are displaced. The organization wishes to continue to support local gardening initiatives like Queensbridge Sacred Garden started by their neighbor Suga Ray. The irony is their site composts leaves for Western Queens Parks that will be landfilled if they are evicted. Transporting the disposal will be an additional cost to taxpayers at a time when the budget of the City is negatively impacted. BIG Reuse is a more efficient way to dispose/upcycle organics, relieves some of the burden from DOS in the problems they were having, along saving taxpayers a substantial amount of money.

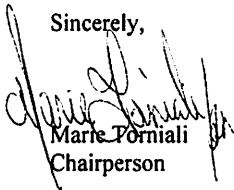
The Parks Department will need to negotiate and secure a long-term license for the BIG Reuse to use the space. Community Board 1, Queens Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee met on February 8, 2021 and the Environmental Protection Committee met on February 9, 2021 both committees voted unanimously to support the BIG Reuse in their endeavors to remain at their location and are seeking the Parks Department commitment to negotiate and secure the BIG Reuse Composting Program site.

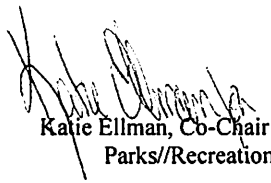
On February 16, 2021 at the Full Board Meeting, Community Board 1, Queens voted in favor of this request.

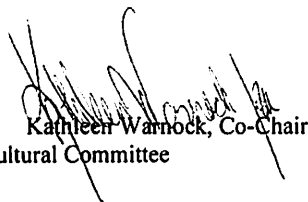
Our Board urges your agency to realize the importance of this program to the environment and to the residents of our community. We anticipate a positive review.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Marie Torniali
Chairperson


Katie Ellman, Co-Chair
Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee


Kathleen Warnock, Co-Chair
Parks/Recreation/Cultural Committee


Antonella Di Saverio, Chair
Environmental Protection
Committee

cc: Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Honorable Mitchell J. Silver, Commissioner, NYC Dept. of Parks and Recreation
Honorable Catherine Nolan, Assembly Member
Honorable Jimmy Van Bramer, Council Member
Ms. Jessica Schabowski, Mayor's Community Affairs Unit