



Donovan Richards
Queens Borough President

March 1, 2021

Community Board No. 2

43-22 50th Street, 2nd Floor
Woodside, New York 11377

(718) 533-8773

Fax (718) 533-8777

Email qn02@cb.nyc.gov

www.nyc.gov/queenscb2

Lisa Deller
Chairperson

Debra Markell Kleinert
District Manager

Honorable Mitchell Silver
Commissioner,
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Re: **BIG Reuse Composting Facilities under Queensborough Bridge**

Dear Commissioner Silver:

We are writing to express Community Board #2's strong support for the BIG Reuse composting facilities that have been located under the Queensborough Bridge for the last 10 years, and it is our hope that they can remain in place going forward under a long-term lease with DPR.

Over the last ten years, the Long Island City community has grown substantially in population and it is very much in need of new and enhanced public park space. CB #2 appreciates DPR's intent to make capital improvements to Queensbridge Baby Park and fully supports the proposed upgrades to active recreational areas for residents' use. However, the site currently occupied by BIG Reuse is being proposed for expanded DPR parking and maintenance, not use by the general public. The BIG Reuse facility now serves surrounding residents, who can deposit their compostable materials in the absence of a citywide pickup program and obtain compost for their individual use, as well as serving the NYC DPR system, through composting leaves from many parks and providing finished compost for landscaping and soil enrichment in those same facilities.

BIG Reuse is an extraordinarily effective non-profit organization. They have provided invaluable services to the City in revitalizing and upgrading this formerly derelict site, in educating many New Yorkers about the importance of composting to the city's environmental health, in mobilizing local volunteers, and in servicing the NYC Parks system with a leaf composting facility that was maintained without public expense. CB #2 supports BIG Reuse's continuing operation in their current location and believes that they provide a greater public benefit than would an expanded maintenance / parking area for DPR, which could be located elsewhere in western Queens. Given the funds, materials and labor that have already been invested in the site, it would be a profound waste of resources to demolish what they have created and force them to

move, particularly when their mission is so aligned with that of an environmentally friendly and sustainable NYC Parks system.

At CB #2's last full Board Meeting on February 4, 2021, a motion was passed with 34 in favor of the motion; none opposed and no abstentions to provide a letter of support for a new long-term lease for BIG Reuse. We sincerely hope that the Parks Department will recognize the importance of this facility, as evidenced by the support of both CB #1 and CB #2, and modify their currently proposed site plan to allow them to remain.

Yours truly,



Lisa Deller

Chairperson, Community Board 2 Queens

LD/mag

cc: Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, US Congress
Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, US Congress
Honorable Grace Meng, US Congress
Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez, US Congress
Honorable Michael Gianaris, NY State Senate
Honorable Brian Barnwell, NYS Assembly
Honorable Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, NYS Assembly
Honorable Catherine T. Nolan, NYS Assembly
Honorable Vicki Been, Deputy Mayor
Honorable Robert Holden, NYC Council Member
Honorable Jimmy Van Bramer NYC Council Member
Honorable Daniel Dromm, NYC Council Member
Honorable Donovan Richards, Queens Borough President
Joe Nocerino, Queens Borough President's Office
Alyssa Cobb Konon, Deputy Commissioner, NYC Parks & Recreation
Michael Dockett, Queens Borough Commissioner, NYC Parks & Recreation
Edward Grayson, Commissioner, NYC DSNY
Nicole Garcia, Department of Transportation
Justin Green, BIG Reuse