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2009 CANDIDATE SURVEY

What do you believe are the top priority park issues that need to be addressed in your district and citywide?

Securing Adequate Funding / Maintenance for Parks

a. Will you work towards securing long term funding for Parks?

(Yes) No

i. If so, would you consider exploring creative financial models such as Parks Improvement Districts (based on the BID model), tax increment financing (TIF), zoning benefits and public private partnerships to supplement maintenance and operating costs?

yes; Friends of Hudson River Park is considering a BID.
caution: be careful not to increase rent of renters + small businesses.

b. Would you support dedicating revenue earned through park concessions to parks maintenance and operations?

(Yes) No

i. If so, would you also support revising the Major Concessions Rules to include all significant private uses on public property (including parks) to community/borough review?

(Yes) No

c. Will you support establishing the tracking of spending and staffing on a park by park basis?

(Yes) No

d. When a capital project is not fully funded will you support diversifying funding sources to ensure their completion?

What would those sources be? For the 59 St Renovation Center, we secured funding from two developers.

(Yes) No

e. What specific actions would you take to ensure that every park in every neighborhood has properly working facilities such as ball-fields, educational facilities, restrooms, etc? I have established close working partnerships with advocates, "Friends of Parks..." non-profit organizations to identify problems as they arise.

i. Will you support a "fix it first" policy for funding capital projects, so that resources are allocated to existing projects in need of repair?

(Yes) No

f. Will you support adequate staffing and funding to ensure that new and existing parks stay in a "state of good repair"?

(Yes) No

i. What funding/programs would you use to increase the full-time parks maintenance staff? I have always supported increased city funding for parks staff such as gardeners, PEP officers etc.

ii. What can be done to improve the baseline services, or maintenance of effort, in our parks to ensure that partnerships don't need to replace poor, existing services or neglected services such as bench and fountain repairs? I do not support

reducing city funding for basic park services through the use of other supplemental funding.

iii. How would you fund the unique maintenance costs of waterfront parks (e.g. access, bulkheads, and piers)? I support working with state + federal officials to obtain funding, as we are doing at the 79th Street Boat Basin in Riverside Park.

g. Will you support park ratings by borough and community board in addition to the citywide level in the Mayor's Park Management Report?

(Yes) No

h. Will you support making the official Parks Department "property list" – that specifically delineates all 1,700 properties – available online?

(Yes) No

Protecting Parkland

a. Will you support more laws that require public notification and input when a park will be used for non-park purposes, to afford parks the protection they need from development or use by other agencies?

(Yes) No

i. How would you require that professional sports organizations assist in maintaining and operating public parks near their facilities? As a condition of license, they should be required to

contribute a percentage of gate or revenue net.

Gale Brewer

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b. Will you work to strengthen parkland alienation regulation by requiring Environmental Impact Statements before parkland alienation bill is filed by municipality?

(Yes) No

i. How will you do this? I have been supportive of Fr. of Hudson River Park in our effort to stop alienation by the Administration (Mayor) of land designated for park use.

c. Will you support mitigation for taking of parkland and ensure replacement of lost parkland for the community?

(Yes) No

i. How will you do so? Again, Fr. of Hudson River Park was successful in forcing the Dept of Sanitation to move off a pier, build a new garage on nearby street, and now we are

d. How would you prevent "pay to play" situations from arising at public and amateur sports facilities? All elected and appointed officials should pay for their own tickets; and franchise operators should be prohibited from offering tickets. building a park on the pier.

e. Will you support legislation that requires regular NYPD reports to the City Council on crime in parks (i.e. Intro. 470)?

(Yes) No

f. Will you work towards making parkland part of the city's CompStat system?

(Yes) No

Expanding Park Use

a. Will you work toward creating, with significant community involvement, a comprehensive citywide master plan for parks and open spaces that will guide the overall acquisition, restoration, improvement, and maintenance of parks, natural areas, playgrounds and athletic facilities in the five boroughs?

(Yes) No

i. What is your vision for some of the new parks? Increase passive and active recreation space; access to water recreation; seating; shade to permit summer programs esp. for seniors; ii. How would you develop it? work with community board, community and parks dept. (platform for cultural events).

b. Will you support extending Resolution No. 1033 which calls for the continued protection of community gardens and the rights of the community and gardeners?

(Yes) No

I am also a cosponsor of Res. No. 1033.

c. What specific actions would you take to revitalize the recreational and amateur sports programs that have been decreased by this year's budget cuts? Partner with the city's highly successful sports franchises; initiate other public/private partnerships.

d. What specific actions would you take to enable a much higher level of collaboration among the Parks Dept. and other city agencies on issues such as stormwater management, greenways, and economic development projects? mandate more monitoring and fining by Dept of Sanitation of construction companies that permit materials to enter storm drains; work with city and state environmental and econ. dev. agencies.

e. How will you ensure that public spaces created as amenities/mitigation for large scale economic development projects such as Atlantic Yards, Penn Yards, and Manhattanville are truly open to the public?

One effective approach, as used in Riverside South, is the restrictive deed.

i. Do you support mapping such public spaces as parkland?

(Yes) No

National and Regional Parks

a. How will you support the creation of planned new regional waterfront parks like Fresh Kills, Hudson River Park, Governors Island and Brooklyn Bridge Park? I have voted to allocate capital and expense funding for Hudson River Park in particular; was party to a lawsuit to prevent alienation of park land; and participate in hundreds of community meetings to plan the parks.

b. What are your plans to ensure that all citizens have equal access to these regional facilities? Must ensure that there is full public transportation access to these parks.

Also, I fund the "Friends of" groups.

c. What steps would you take to promote the use of and access to our city's national parks at Gateway National Recreation Area and the other National Parks of NY Harbor? Public transportation is available to most units of Gateway. What is needed is funding for school groups, active retirees etc. to learn about the wild life refuge and recreational facilities.

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Additional

Every spring, I initiate a meeting to plan for summer activities in Bennerston Park, a park within Amsterdam Houses/ Addition/ MYCHA. This annual planning meeting includes residents, community board, Parks, basketball league, baseball league, chess, P. A. L., Jazzmobile, mobile units, settlement house, local school officials, MYCHA officials, etc. Such planning should be part of the summer activities of every neighborhood park.

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city council
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