

# ALEX ZABLOCKI

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## FOR PUBLIC ADVOCATE

May 25, 2009

Sheelah A. Feinberg  
Government & Community Relations  
New Yorkers for Parks  
355 Lexington Ave, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10022

**Re: 2009 Candidate Survey**

**Sent via email: sfeinberg@ny4p.org**

Dear Ms. Feinberg:

Thank you for having me at the New Yorkers for Parks forum last week. Attached are my answers to the 2009 candidate survey.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Alex T. Zablocki  
Candidate  
NYC Public Advocate

**Survey Answers:****Securing Adequate Funding/Maintenance for Parks**

- a. Yes
  - i. I would be in favor of tax increment financing (TIF) if the money used properly and accounted for, however, this method could take money about from schools and other uses. I believe the best method to secure more money for parks are through public/private partnerships, which as Public Advocate I would look to expand across the five boroughs.
- b. Yes.
  - i. Yes and no. For example, of a minor concession wants to do business in a park, I don't think approval should be held up by a borough review. I am in favor of giving more control to local Parks offices over their own concessions and I would be in favor of revising the Major Concessions Rules if "significant private uses" was clearly defined.
- c. Yes, the best way to manage any government agency effectively is to break it down to see what works and what doesn't.
- d. Yes, grants, private money, allocations from City Council members and Borough Presidents and State/ Federal sources
- e. As Public Advocate I would work with the Mayor's office to create a new independent rating system of all park facilities called "ParkStat". This program would also work closely with the NYPD to determine levels of crime in parks.
  - i. Yes, in most cases.
- f. Yes, through volunteering and community partnerships.
  - i. Use more community based volunteers.
  - ii. Cut costs on all projects. Examine capital projects for cost overruns and ways to make park improvements cheaper by involving the private sector.
  - iii. Through the allocation of Federal money, economic development projects with a business component to help pay for improvements
- g. Yes, it is important to breakdown the ratings into manageable pieces.
- h. Yes – this should be done already.

**Protecting Parkland**

- a. Yes, if it changes a park or harms a park in anyway, including the parks' unique experience.
  - i. They have an obligation to assist in maintaining and operating public parks near their facilities and should have been part of the redevelopment deals of both the Mets and Yankees stadiums. Since these deals have already been structured, as Public Advocate I would reach out to both teams to ask them to help support parks near their stadiums. I would also submit legislation requiring any major sports team that receives taxpayer dollars to build a stadium to place money in a fund to help support parks near their stadiums. (ie: any new development or redevelopment of Madison Square Garden, Atlantic Yards, West Side Stadium for use by a sports team)
- b. Yes. Parks should be used for PARKS purposes.