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CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE, 29TH CD

NEW YORKERS FOR PARKS - 2009 CANDIDATE SURVEY

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

The upkeep and maintenance of existing parks must be addressed in my district and citywide. Particularly in times of economic downturn, the population utilizes our parks and they are a respite for our residents from their other problems. We must find the resources to maintain the parks. The youth of our city depend on the parks for entertainment. Our seniors are in the parks everyday - weather permitting. Our parks are a vital part of our seniors' lives - particularly in my council district.

I believe that another top priority park issue is keeping the park safe for use by the community. We must have the parks kept clean, and drug free. We want the parks to be a haven for our population. Recently, in our community, the precinct has been working with our residents to improve the safety in Forest Park.

Securing Adequate Funding / Maintenance for Parks

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

YES

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.

As noted on my website (www.heidichain.com), I support public-private partnerships to provide services and funding for the parks. The "friends of the parks" can help raise money and also provide additional services, plantings etc. for the parks. A "Parks Improvement District" concept would have to be voted on by the surrounding community. If the local community is in favor of a Parks Improvement District, this would be a way to raise extra money for the maintenance and operating costs in the park.

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

YES

The parks should derive revenue from the facilities that are operated on parks land.