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WEST HARLEM ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

March 28, 2007

The Honorable Adrian Benepe
Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
New York, NY 10021

Re: High Performance "Green" Comfort Station for Harlem River Park

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

The Harlem River Park Task Force greatly appreciates your continued support for the design and construction of a high performance "green" comfort station in Harlem River Park. With our user population being largely elderly and under 18 years old, and with the park being accessible only by ramps over the Harlem River Drive – a limited access highway – we all agree that a comfort station here is a necessity for the park to thrive.

To date, our combined efforts have succeeded in obtaining \$350,000 in 2006 Environmental Protection Funds for this comfort station. Since then, we have been working with the Manhattan Waterfront Parks Coalition and our elected officials on the Harlem River Park Task Force – Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and Council Members Melissa Mark-Viverito and Inez Dickens – to complete funding for this \$1.2 million project.

Unfortunately, we just learned that there isn't a sewer line in the park to hook up to the comfort station. This caught us by surprise, given that a comfort station was included in the park's original master plan. Mr. Robert Redmond from your capital division tells us that we will now have to raise an additional \$1.3 million before the project can begin.

Please help us address this funding gap or assist us in developing a composting comfort station. If we cannot secure a resolution quickly, we may lose the financial support of our elected officials for this project.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Lunke
Co-Chair

Robin Chappelle
Co-Chair

cc: Mr. William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, NYC DPR
Ms. Susannah Vickers, Director of Budget & Grants, MBPO
Mr. Matthew Washington, Co-Chair, MWPC