



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

1 Centre Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10007
(212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f

431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027
(212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f

www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

August 27, 2020

Mitchell Silver
Commissioner
Dept. of Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal
830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver:

I write regarding the Parks Permit update you recently distributed. This update can be improved in a number of ways.

First, with the parks in New York City open, and fields and courts once again busy with users at all hours, it is inviting unneeded conflict to allow teams to simply show up without warning and without permits to displace local players. These much sought-after spaces should – and must – be allocated through organized teams. Parks must provide adequate supervision and regulate a permit system for participants and their activities at every site. In addition, why are we letting anyone who wants to use our fields and courts interfere with sports leagues that schedule youth and even adult teams? If a permit holder brings too many people to an event, their permits moving forward can be revoked. But with no system in place, there isn't an incentive for unpermitted groups that just show up to limit their number of participants, or to cooperate with other users.

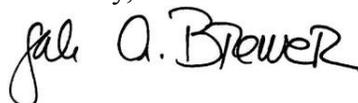
Further, you are still issuing event permits for groups of 50 or less. Why are special events being given priority over organized sports activities? This seems a poorly thought-out policy; and furthermore, some of the sports organizations provide reliable, long-term year after year revenue.

At a time when we are asking so much of our young people, we need to do all we can to provide them safe and healthy outlets. Our youth will continue to spend a great deal of time at home during the fall months. We need to ensure that organized and safe outdoor activities can continue

by issuing athletic field and court permits for local teams and organizations during the fall 2020 season, helping to ensure that they comply with city and state guidance.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "G".

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President