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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President

August 10, 2020

Richard Carranza
Chancellor
Department of Education
52 Chambers Street
New York NY 10007

Polly Trottenberg
Commissioner
Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

Dear Chancellor Carranza and Commissioner Trottenberg:

I write to request open space for synagogues that want to meet out of doors during the Jewish High Holidays on the following dates: September 18-20 and September 27-28, 2020.

The schools are traditionally closed on these holidays and some of those playgrounds may be able to accommodate this use. However, I spoke to the Parks Department and they recommend not making available the jointly operated (DOE/Parks) playgrounds as they are used by the public at all times that schools are not in session.

The other possibility is an open street.

At least four synagogues have contacted us and need space on the Upper West Side for social distancing and temporary seating, potentially where a tent can be set up for their congregation.

Please be in touch with me or Shula Warren Puder at SWarren@manhattanbp.nyc.gov with suggestions.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer
Manhattan Borough President