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**Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Borough President**

March 24, 2026

Hon. Tricia Shimamura  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation  
The Arsenal  
830 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Shimamura:

I write today to request that the Parks Department resume the Old Croton Aqueduct trail markers project and complete the installation of the historic aqueduct trail markers in Manhattan.

As you know, the High Bridge, which reopened in June 2015, is a city treasure and is part of the Old Croton Aqueduct route, connecting the trail between Manhattan and the Bronx. However, at this time, the route south of High Bridge Park in Manhattan still lacks the trail markers that were previously designed to be installed every mile along the trail starting at the Yonkers border. These markers are important to enhance the experience of park visitors and to teach them about our city's history. The aqueduct itself, completed in 1842, was an engineering marvel that brought abundant water and improved health and hygiene to Manhattan for the first time, culminating in the receiving reservoir that stood where the New York Public Library was later built at Fifth Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

The trail toward that onetime reservoir includes High Bridge Park's landmark tower, the Morris-Jumel Mansion, the onetime Polo Grounds, the Frederick Douglass Houses, as well as Manhattan's iconic museums, educational marvels, and religious spaces.

I respectfully request that the Parks Department commit to:

- Reopening this project and seeing it toward completion for the Manhattan segment of the route; and
- Locating the existing Manhattan trail markers that already have been designed or fabricating new ones and installing them at the various locations.

Thank you for the consideration of this request. I'm looking forward to the completion of this historic route for our neighbors in Manhattan to enjoy and learn more about this tremendous feat of engineering.

Sincerely yours,



Brad Hoylman-Sigal  
Manhattan Borough President