



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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**Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Borough President**

September 10, 2026

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

Dear Commissioner Shimamura:

We write regarding the future of the newsstand kiosk at Verdi Square South, located at the southern entrance to the 72nd Street subway station on Broadway between 71st and 72nd Streets. We are pleased that the Parks Department has engaged directly with the West 71st Street Block Association on this issue, and that both parties have agreed to pursue a refurbishment of the structure. This is a welcome development after more than six years during which the kiosk sat unactivated, leading it to become a magnet for garbage, rodents, and illicit activity including public urination and drug use.

As you know, the 72nd Street IRT control house is a designated City landmark and one of the most heavily trafficked transit gateways on the Upper West Side. The plaza surrounding it deserves a streetscape worthy of that distinction, and a well-executed refurbishment that puts a new vendor in the kiosk would deliver a lasting, visible improvement for the thousands of New Yorkers who pass through Verdi Square each day.

We encourage the Parks Department and the Block Association to continue this collaboration and respectfully ask that Parks commit to working with the Block Association to find an expeditious best use of the shed, so the kiosk does not sit vacant any longer than necessary.

Thank you for your continued leadership. We look forward to partnering with you to restore this space for our neighbors in Manhattan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brad Hoylman-Sigal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brad" being particularly prominent.

Brad Hoylman-Sigal  
Manhattan Borough President