



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

Adrian Benepe
Commissioner

The Arsenal
Central Park
New York, New York 10021

Joshua R. Laird, Assistant Commissioner
Planning & Natural Resources

(212) 360-3402
joshua.laird@parks.nyc.gov

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September 1, 2006

Mr. Robert Kulikowski, Ph. D.
Director
New York City Office of Environmental Coordination
100 Gold Street
New York, New York 10038

NOTICE OF LEAD AGENCY DESIGNATION AND REVIEW

Re: Lead Agency Designation and Notice of Commencement of Environmental Review:
Washington Square Park Reconstruction
CEQR #06DPR001M

The above-referenced project involves a discretionary action subject to review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), its implementing regulations as set forth in 6 NYCRR Part 617, and the Rules of Procedure for City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR).

In accordance with Executive Order 91 of 1977, as amended, and Title 62, Chapter 5 of the Rules of the City of New York, the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to assume the role of lead agency for the environmental review of the above-referenced action. The assumption of lead agency status is consistent with the underlying mandate of CEQR that the appropriate lead agency be the agency "primarily responsible for carrying out, funding or approving an action," as well as with the criteria listed in Sections 5-03 (h) and 5-05 of Title 62 of the Rules of the City of New York.

Washington Square Park is a 9.75-acre park, specifically Block 549 Lots 1,2,3, and 4, located in the Greenwich Village community of Manhattan. Washington Square Park is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated local landmark as part of the Greenwich Village Historic District. The proposed reconstruction will provide Washington Square Park with a cohesive design, improved circulation and physical condition, landscape rehabilitation, contemporary design standards for pedestrian use, enhanced access, and rehabilitation of important historic features (the "Proposed Action").

The Proposed Action will be carried out in three phases. The first phase will encompass reconstruction of the fountain, central plaza area, and northwest quadrant of the park, which currently contains park pathways, landscaping and new perimeter fencing. The second phase of the

Proposed Action will reconstruct the remaining quadrants of the park. The third phase, which may be conducted concurrently with phase two, will include the replacement of utility buildings. Phase One is planned to begin fall 2006 and the remaining phases in 2007 or 2008.

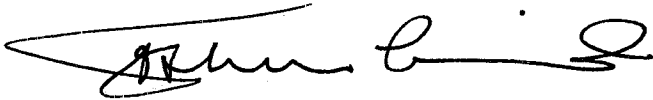
The Proposed Action has obtained the following required approvals:

- Approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission for new design elements.
- Approval from the New York City Art Commission for the statutes and fountain.

Attached are Parts One and Two of the Environmental Assessment Statement for your review and comment. Please respond with any comments or questions to my attention at (212) 360-3402, fax at (212)360-3453, email at Joshua.Laird@parks.nyc.gov, or at the address listed above by Tuesday, September 19, 2006.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,



Joshua Laird
Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Natural Resources

Distribution List

Honorable Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
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Arthur Strickler, District Manager, Community Board 2

cc: William Castro, Deborah Howe, Shanna Davis, George Kroenert,
George Vellonakis