



## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN  
55 EAST 115<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10029-1101  
TEL: (212) 831-8929/30  
FAX: (212) 369-3571  
[www.cb11m.org](http://www.cb11m.org)

Lino Rios  
*Chair*

George Sarkissian  
*District Manager*

### **Manhattan Community Board 11 Statement before the City Council Parks and Recreation Committee November 3, 2006**

Community Board 11 is currently reviewing the Randall's Island Sports Foundation proposal to renovate or create 65 new ball fields and fund the project through revenues collected from private independent schools. In return these independent schools will receive commitments to use 80% of the new fields between the hours of 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM on weekdays. We expect to develop a position on the project shortly but we ask our elected officials and the Franchise and Concession Review Committee to wait to receive our comments before voting on the matter. We will be as expeditious as possible and expect to conduct a complete review and present a comprehensive position on this project.

We believe a project of this scale and importance deserves a thorough community review as it has the potential to affect our community for the life of the proposed agreement. We expect to conduct our review of the Randall's Island Sports Foundation proposal and engage in negotiations that take into consideration community based planning. The Mayor, Borough President and Council have all touted the benefits of community based planning and we expect them to be receptive to our recommendations. The current plan to limit the community's use of the ball fields, especially in the hours after school, was not reached in cooperation with our Community Board nor the East Harlem community. The right of a community to plan their own future and determine how to use their own land is an important component of that cherished American value, self-determination. As the Community Board with responsibility for the planning and development activities on Randall's Island, we want to ensure that our community's residents are afforded every and all opportunities to fully utilize all the facilities on Randall's Island and any proposal to develop new ball fields must meet that expectation today and in the future.