

**In Support of a Change in the City Hall Plan to Allow 20 of
Manhattan's Private Schools Priority of 66% of the 67 Renovated
Ballfields at Randall's Island Park during After-School Hours**

Submitted by: Community Education Council District 3 (CDEC3)

WHEREAS, the City of New York is nearing a compromise with other elected officials over a controversial plan to allow 20 of Manhattan's richest private schools exclusive access to 66% of over 60 newly renovated ballfields at Randall's Island Park for an annual payment of \$2.85 million for the next 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Randall's Island State Park is a public park located in the Borough of Manhattan in the East River between East Harlem, the South Bronx, and Astoria Queen which has high rates of childhood obesity and asthma; and

WHEREAS, the Randall's Island Sports Foundation (RISF), which is working to reconfigure the playing fields at Randall's Island Park, is about to start Phase 2 which will design over 60 new fields and will break ground in spring, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the RISF up until October, 2006, had not made public the original plan to accept over \$2 million dollars annually from 20 Manhattan private schools in exchange for exclusive rights to 80% of the newly renovated fields for 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has chosen not to use part of the city's 4 billion dollar surplus to finance the Randall's Island ballpark renovation directly; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the CDEC3 opposes any plan that denies equal access to the newly-renovated playing fields on Randall's Island State Park to both public and private schools; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the CDEC3 urges the City's Franchise and Concession Review Committee to delay any vote on this issue until a survey be done in relation to the demand for these playing fields from all of the New York City's schools; and be it

RESOLVED, the CDEC3 urges the City of New York to invest money into a plan to create more public bus routes into Randall's Island, focusing on the surrounding NYC communities to allow easy access to all of the NYC community to Randall's Island State Park and all its 480 acres of land.