

MEDIA ADVISORY

Parent & Students, Park Advocates, Environmental Justice Advocates, and Local Residents Decry City's Insulting New Concession Agreement for Randall's Island

Parks Department's Actions Designed to Evade Legal Obligations that Would Ensure Public Accountability and Address Environmental Harms

WHAT: Public Hearing, Franchise and Concession Review Committee hearing on the Randall's Island Concession Agreement.

New York Lawyers for the Public Interest (NYLPI), District 4 President's Council, the Citywide Council of High Schools, District 4 Community District Education Council, East Harlem Preservation, Inc., Nos Quedamos Committee, Inc., New York City Park Advocates, Inc., Marina Ortiz, and Hector Nazario by Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP, and civil rights attorney Norman Siegel, will host a press conference concerning the new concession agreement proposed by the Department of Parks and Recreation/ Randall's Island Sports Foundation (RISF) between the City and 20 elite NYC private schools, and the legal implications for the City's Department of Parks and Recreations (DPR).

In an effort to avoid public review, the new agreement makes slight modifications to the former 'pay-to-play' agreement that gave a consortium of private schools use of 66% of the playing field during prime after-school hours for the next 20 years. Despite these modifications, playing field access will still be dominated by a small percentage of students from privileged private schools while children from East Harlem and the South Bronx remain excluded. In addition, as alleged in a lawsuit filed last week, the City is attempting to push the agreement through without legally-mandated land use and environmental reviews.

WHEN: Monday, June 8, 2009 at 2:00 pm

WHERE: Franchise and Concession Review Committee Hearing
22 Reade St.

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