

February 14, 2007

Comptroller Thompson,

I can't tell you how disgusted and disappointed I am in your decision to vote for the sleazy deal allowing privatization of parks, discrimination against Harlem and South Bronx public school youth, and an undemocratic process to advance w/out full review by the City Council.

A responsible elected official would have called for an investigation into how the Parks Department deployed considerable resources to cater to private interests while having no clue of the needs of local public school students, as sheepishly admitted to by Parks Commissioner Benepe who testified to this fact in front of the City Council Parks Committee with a representative from your office in attendance last week. A responsible and caring elected official would have called for the sleazy deal to be delayed and a needs assessment to be conducted to determine what public school children needs for access to ball fields in public parks is and how the city could fulfill its obligation to serve its public school children in this regard.

As amply reported in Hit and Miss, the 2000 study of shameful absence of physical education in our city's public schools, the consequences of the city government's negligence as regards the health of students in its care are felt not only at the level of physical well-being but also impact adversely social and employment development and opportunities.

Your decision to go along to get along w/this discriminatory deal sanctions and participates in a culture of government neglect of the most vulnerable. It will not be forgotten any time soon.

I am deeply saddened by your act today.

Robert Jereski  
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