

February 7, 2007

Franchise and Concessions Review Committee  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Re: Concession Agreement between Randall's Island Sports Foundation/ Department of Parks and Recreation and a Consortium of 20 Independent Schools

Dear Sirs and Madame:

CIVITAS Citizens, Inc. is a volunteer community organization concerned with land use, zoning and related neighborhood issues affecting the Upper East Side of Manhattan and East Harlem.

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposed concession agreement for the use of playing fields on Randall's Island whereby a consortium of 20 independent schools will have a 20 year exclusive right to occupy 2/3 of the fields during the prime hours of 3 PM to 6 PM from Monday to Friday in return for a payment of \$2.85 million each year.

We hold the Randall's Island Sports Foundation, the Central Park Conservancy and other private partnership organizations in high regard for the valuable and often innovative contributions they make to improving and maintaining the city's parklands. However, the proposed Randall's Island playing fields agreement amounts to an unprecedented grant of a concession that will have the effect of precluding the possibility of use of at least 42 fields during the most desired time slots by other schools or groups for 20 years or more.

We urge that the proposed agreement be withdrawn for the following reasons:

First, under the City Charter and Rules issued by the Department of City Planning, the proposed agreement amounts to a "major concession" that is subject to public review under ULURP;

Second, the terms of the proposed agreement are inconsistent with the principle of public access to the city's parks; and

Third, the City Council and the Mayor should work together to appropriate the necessary capital funds for construction and renovation of the fields and to make provision on a continuing basis to maintain them.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely yours,

T. Gorman Reilly  
President

cc Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg  
William C. Thompson, Jr., Comptroller  
Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President  
Hon. Marty Markowitz, Brooklyn Borough President  
Hon. Adolfo Carron, Jr., Bronx Borough President  
Hon. Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President  
Hon. James P. Molinaro, Staten Island Borough President