



February 25, 2021

Via Email

Commissioner Erik Kulleseid
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Commissioner Kulleseid:

We are pleased that your office has agreed to attend the public meeting of the Parks Committee of Brooklyn Community Board 1 on March 4, 2021 to engage with the Committee and with the public regarding the proposed reconstruction of Marsha P. Johnson State Park. We write to request that you suspend construction activity for this project until the meeting.

As you know, in response to the announcement regarding the project that was made on January 12, 2021 at BCB1's full Board meeting, many members of the community have expressed concerns and criticisms related to the roll out and community engagement process related to this project, as well as the proposed design and its environmental sustainability and implications for coastal resiliency.

It is worth noting that many of the residents who have expressed concerns related to this project are the very same people who fought for waterfront open space and the existence of this parkland to begin with. Of course, there may be other local residents and stakeholders who support the project as planned. We expect that the opportunity to engage on March 4th will allow residents to voice their thoughts and develop a better understanding of the decision making process related to the Park's design.

We thank you for your work to celebrate the life and legacy of Marsha P. Johnson through a creative and educational piece of parkland and for all your work to ensure that New Yorkers across the state have access to great open spaces. We hope you will be willing to suspend Park construction until the March 4th meeting, which we believe will be received as a sign of good faith from your office, and will facilitate a constructive conversation with the community.

If you have any questions or if you would like to discuss this matter, please feel free to reach out to any of us directly, or via Eliana Cohen in Senator Kavanagh's office at 212-298-5565 or ecohen@nysenate.gov.

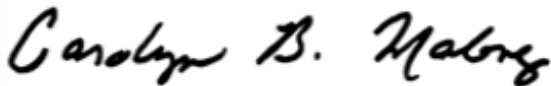
Sincerely,



Brian Kavanagh
State Senator



Emily Gallagher
Assemblymember



Carolyn Maloney
Congressmember



Stephen Levin
City Council Member

cc: Leslie Wright, NYC Regional Director
Brooklyn Community Board 1
Kristina Naplatarski, District Leader, AD 50
Emile Bazile, District Leader, AD 50
Anthony Buissereth, Executive Director, North Brooklyn Neighbors