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THE COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
MARGARET S. CHIN
COUNCIL MEMBER, 1ST DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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January 8, 2013

Dennis Mehiel
Chairman of the Board and CEO
Battery Park City Authority
1 World Financial Center
New York, New York
10281

Dear Mr. Mehiel,

I am writing to you to express my concerns about the current estimates for restoration to the Battery Park City ballfields. Though Battery Park City boasts many fine park spaces, programmable recreational space has always been in short supply in our community. The Battery Park City ballfields are one of the only field spaces in Lower Manhattan and are a unique and extremely valued resource in our community. They are what enable the downtown community to support thriving youth baseball and soccer leagues and Manhattan Youth to provide a rich array of programs throughout the school year and summer. I am sure that you will agree that these programs greatly add value to the residential buildings in Battery Park City.

I am greatly concerned that the loss of the field space for an entire season will deprive those children who participate in these programs, but will also have long term effects on the vitality of these programs. In another area, it might be a difficult matter for these organizations to find alternative spaces because of the short lead time; in Lower Manhattan, I worry it will be virtually impossible given the lack of field space even with the Battery Park City ballfields are usable.

I would like to request a meeting with you regarding this issue. As Council Member for the area, I would also like to request further information about the repairs that are needed and the source of the delays. I hope given the circumstances the Battery Park City Authority reevaluate whether they need to put out a new bid for a complete overhaul versus categorizing the repairs as maintenance not requiring a bid – something that I believe would cut a significant amount of time off the repairs. I would also like to know if there are any relatively low cost interim repairs that can make the fields usable in the interim while we await more major repairs. Please also let me know if there is anything that I as a Council Member can do to help expedite the schedule of repairs. We are anxious to do whatever we can to see the fields reopen at least in time for half a season.

I would also appreciate any help the Battery Park City Authority can render in helping the leagues find alternative space. Is there park space in Battery Park City not normally programmed that could be used for practices in the meantime while repairs are underway?

Thank you very much for your assistance on this issue. I hope together we can find a creative solution and prevent our community's children from missing out of an entire season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Margaret S. Chin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent flourish at the end.

Margaret S. Chin
Council Member, District 1
New York City Council