



THE COUNCIL
OF

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

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October 3, 2024

Hon. Eric Adams
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Adams,

I write for the second year in a row to request that the Global Citizen Festival no longer be scheduled in Central Park. The Global Citizen Festival has been held in the park for years, and it invariably obstructs the flow of foot traffic, creates noise pollution, and appropriates large amounts of space from those who want to visit the park.

Last year, the combination of heavy rain, large crowds, and vehicles used for installing and removing stage equipment destroyed more than half of the Great Lawn, creating enough damage to necessitate immediate closure of the lawn for re-sodding. Approximately 12-acres of public greenspace remained unavailable to New Yorkers for more than seven months, an extension of the typical maintenance period by a month-and-a-half solely to accommodate a one-day event.

This year, more rain at the Global Citizen Festival risked further damage, the extent of which is still being assessed. But already, the closure of the Great Lawn from September 22 to date has prevented New Yorkers and visitors from enjoying the space. This is almost a two-week closure in order to accommodate the installation of heavy machinery, barricades, and large stages for what is, once again, solely a one-day event.

I have never been a fan of the Global Citizen Festival because so little, if any, of the grants are allocated to nonprofits in New York City. I urge you to schedule the Global Citizen Festival in a venue other than Central Park, such as an arena or stadium.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer

Cc: Sue Donoghue, Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation, 830 Fifth Avenue, New

York, NY 10065

Betsy Smith, President, Central Park Conservancy, 717 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY
10022