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THE COUNCIL
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THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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COUNCIL MEMBER, 6TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

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September 23, 2026

Hon. Zohran Mamdani
Mayor
City of New York
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Mamdani:

Every year, I write to the Mayor to complain about granting a permit to Global Citizen for their use of the Great Lawn in Central Park. Global Citizen is scheduled for their concert to begin at 4 PM on Saturday, September 26, 2026. I object to this use of this venue for the following reasons:

- The setup for this extravaganza event means that mega-trucks line Central Park West for days in advance, curtailing use of the bike lane and parking
- The Great Lawn is off-limits to the public for six days in advance of the concert (Sept. 21-26), and I have received lots of complaints from New Yorkers who want to relax on the Great Lawn and think it is outrageous that it is closed to the public
- A nor'easter storm is expected this weekend. The last time that a storm hit the same day as the Global Citizen concert, the event went forward, and the Great Lawn was destroyed. After much press attention, the concert promoters paid for the restoration, but the Great Lawn was out of commission for months. The promoters said, "It is closed anyway for the winter." No, it was not winter yet.
- The Great Lawn will also be closed until the setup is taken down; it will be closed from Sept 27-Oct. 2 or possibly Oct 4. It could be closed even longer if the lawn is destroyed.

I am urging that the Global Citizen event be moved to Randall's Island. That is the appropriate site. It is wrong for the Great Lawn to be off-limits to New Yorkers and visitors for two weeks or more.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gale A. Brewer".

Gale A. Brewer

cc: Tricia Shimamura, Commissioner, NYC Parks and Recreation
Betsy Smith, President, Central Park Conservancy