

| [August 4, 2003](#)

Deleted: July 31

Adrian Benepe  
Commissioner  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Arsenal, Central Park  
New York, NY 10021

**Re: Fashion Show in Chelsea Park**

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

Manhattan Community Board No. 4 expedited its procedures so that the Parks Department and Marc Jacobs could get an immediate answer to a request to use part of Chelsea Park for a fashion show. The vote of the board was to reject the proposal outright.

The main reason for the rejection was the board's disapproval of hiring out public space for private events. Though the board is aware of how difficult it is to run the Parks Department on a continually shrinking budget, privatizing park space is not the solution. That there is so little park space in Chelsea is yet another reason for our reluctance to give up cherished acreage for a private event.

The improvement of the Chelsea Park ball field during your term as Manhattan Commissioner has made it a popular and desirable venue. Representatives of the Downtown United Soccer League, one of the users of the field, noted that losing one week to the fashion show would mean a loss of 10 percent of the soccer league's season.

In conclusion, Chelsea Park, the largest city park in Chelsea, is too valuable to the thousands of individuals who use it to be expropriated for a week for a fashion show. We therefore request that the Parks Department not grant permission for the use of the park by Marc Jacobs.

Sincerely,



Walter Mankoff  
Chair

cc: W. Castro  
E. Peterson  
J. Song/KCD