



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

ERIK KULLESEID
Commissioner

Brooklyn Community Board No. 1
435 Graham Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11211

Re: Status of Marsha P. Johnson State Park

March 9, 2021

Dear Community Board Members:

Last Thursday at the Community Board Parks Committee meeting, the passionate voices of Marsha P. Johnson's family and our North Brooklyn neighbors demanded greater input on the design elements of the transformation currently taking place at the park. The leadership of the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation have heard the feedback and realized that the design outreach we did was simply not enough, and for that we are deeply sorry. There were many voices in the neighborhood who did not believe they had a chance to be heard and it is our first and foremost priority to rectify that immediately.

After hearing these concerns, we halted construction on Friday. We have begun actively reaching out to Marsha P. Johnson's family, community board members as well as members of the community. These initial conversations are proving to be extremely valuable and will continue.

The interpretive design elements of this project will not be installed until we can develop a new path forward with the community. This means no mural will be placed on the historical concrete slabs in the park, and no floral interpretive elements will be installed in the gantry plaza area. We will work hand in hand with the community to identify a more appropriate commemorative design direction for this park. We will begin to organize public design workshops to be held at Marsha P. Johnson State Park beginning as soon as April. Each workshop will last a full day, allowing many voices with varying schedules to be accommodated.

In the meantime, to get the park back up and fully open for public use by June, we will resume work to finish the basic park infrastructure improvements we have started in the park. We will complete:

- Construction of the Park House with its classroom and restrooms
- Reduce footprint of historic concrete platforms and increase greenspace
- Renew downsized historic concrete platforms surface
- New pathways, restored cobbles
- Stormwater drainage improvements
- Installation of a new water line for landscape maintenance

Our open space is extremely vital to our communities. It is important that we get this right and that we get this open to our community. With your help we are confident we can do both.



Thank you.

Leslie Wright
New York City Regional Director
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation