



October 10, 2019

Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver:

As elected officials that represent the volunteers and neighbors who enjoy, play, and work in the dozens of community gardens throughout our districts, we write to ask you and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to continue meaningful discussions with community leaders and garden advocates to resolve outstanding issues in the latest proposed GreenThumb licensing agreements.

Since 1978, community gardeners and GreenThumb have enjoyed a fruitful relationship. Gardeners have voluntarily given their time, labor, and money to be stewards of the City's property and natural resources while GreenThumb has provided much needed organizational support. Under the proposed license, however, GreenThumb becomes an agent of enforcement rather than a garden-friendly working partner.

The 2019 Community Garden License Agreement and GreenThumb Gardeners' Handbook contain new burdensome requirements that could hinder the community outreach and engagement that is a hallmark of community gardens in New York City. While some changes have been agreed to, issues still remain, including concerns regarding the termination clause, permitting, and the definition of responsibility for risk and liability. We ask that you work with community gardeners and advocates to resolve these and any other outstanding questions.

We can all agree community gardens are an integral part of our neighborhoods and any City effort for sustainability. That is why our gardens must be preserved and which will require a new mutually-beneficial license agreement between gardeners and GreenThumb.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

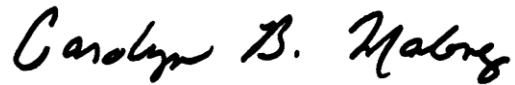
Sincerely,

State Senator Brad Hoylman
27th District

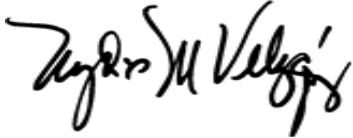
City Council Member Carlina Rivera
2nd District



U.S. Congressman Jerrold Nadler
10th District



U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney
12th District



U.S. Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez
7th District



State Assembly Member Deborah Glick
66th District



State Assembly Member Harvey Epstein
74th District



State Assembly Member Richard N. Gottfried
75th District



State Assembly Member Linda B. Rosenthal
67th District



State Assembly Member Dan Quart
73rd District



State Assembly Member Yuh-Line Niou
65th District



City Council Member Helen Rosenthal
6th District



City Council Member Margaret Chin
1st District