



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**  
BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN

**SCOTT M. STRINGER**  
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

May 13, 2008

Honorable Michael Bloomberg  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg:

I write to express my support for a car-free Central Park and to encourage you to implement a pilot program closing the Central Park Loop Drive to auto traffic this summer. In PlaNYC you showed the city and the nation the importance of open spaces and parks in achieving a sustainable, healthy, and active city. Closing Central Park to auto traffic this summer would make this commitment tangible to the many New Yorkers and visitors, who daily walk, run, ride, and enjoy nature in the park.

Research shows that the majority of private vehicles entering Central Park during the morning rush hours originate in neighborhoods beyond those adjacent to the park. This suggests that Central Park is serving as a magnet for traffic—drawing cars off of the Harlem River Drive, Henry Hudson Parkway, the FDR, and other appropriate traffic arteries and on to neighborhood streets. Thus, closing Central Park to cars this summer will not increase traffic in the neighborhoods surrounding the park, but may, in fact, reduce congestion and air pollution during the hottest summer months—helping residents in nearby neighborhoods, such as Harlem, where asthma rates are high, breathe easier this summer.

Closing Central Park to car traffic this summer is broadly supported by many of the city's civic, health, environmental, and transportation organizations as well as the over 100,000 park users who have signed a petition calling for a car-free park. Leading physicians at Harlem Hospital and Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, the West Harlem Environmental Action organization, and former Department of Transportation Commissioner Lou Riccio have also expressed support for closing the Central Park Loop Drive to cars this summer.

In 2006 and 2007 you took a leadership role by reducing the number of hours Central Park is open to vehicular traffic. I urge you to take the next step this summer and implement a 3-month trial of a car-free Central Park. This one action has the potential to achieve real and immediate

benefits for our city, and to send an unequivocal message that New York City is serious about having greener priorities.

I look forward to working with you on making Central Park car free this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott M. Stringer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being particularly prominent.

Scott M. Stringer  
Manhattan Borough President

CC: Mr. Adrian Benepe, Commissioner, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
Mr. Jeffrey Kay, Director, Mayor's Office of Operations