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Via Facsimile and U.S. Mail

June 15, 2007

Adrian Benepe
Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Commissioner Benepe:

Our offices have already received dozens of calls regarding the removal of street trees on the side streets in the first weeks of the construction of the Second Avenue Subway. We have been told that a total of 87 trees will be removed in connection with the first contract.

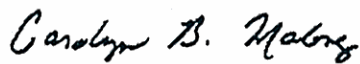
It is our understanding that the Parks Department has been working with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and its contractors to determine which trees will be removed due to the construction. We have been told, however, that certain trees on 91st Street between Second and Third Avenues may have been removed without the initial knowledge of the Parks Department. Additionally, many of our offices were expressly told that no street trees on the side streets would be removed during construction. The loss of trees along the side streets comes as an unpleasant surprise to us and to our constituents.

We ask that you provide an explanation for the removal of the trees along the side streets, as well as a list of locations for all street trees that have been approved by the Parks Department for removal in connection with this project.

Additionally, we understand that 24 trees that were removed have been transplanted and we would like to know the current location of those trees. We have been told that additional trees will be replanted for each tree that was removed, and that an additional 478 trees will be planted in the community. Please advise us when we can expect the new trees to be planted.

We need your vigilance and renewed commitment to protecting the trees of this area, and to promptly replace them within the neighborhood. We ask your prompt response to this letter.

Sincerely,



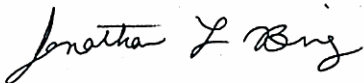
Carolyn Maloney
U.S. Representative



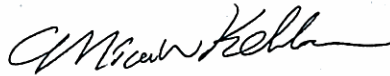
Liz Kruger
State Senator



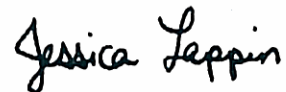
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Micah Z. Kellner
State Assembly Member



Jessica Lappin
Council Member



Daniel R. Garodnick
Council Member

cc: Howard H. Roberts, Jr., President of MTA