



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Simcha Felder

Felder Tells Nyc Parks Department: “Prepare for Large Influx of Visitors During Chol Ha’moed Sukkos”

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In advance of the Sukkos holiday, Senator Simcha Felder (D-Brooklyn) has contacted New York City Parks Department Commissioner Veronica White to advise her to prepare for the large influx of Orthodox Jewish families who will visit the City’s parks and attractions during Sukkos. A copy of the letter was also distributed to parks in each borough, and to local attractions including zoos, aquariums, and museums.

In a letter to the Commissioner, Senator Felder praised the Parks Department and detailed some of the more common frustrations expressed by his constituents. “I would like to share some concerns and suggested improvements that have been brought to my attention,” Senator Felder wrote. “Namely, some parks have been understaffed or under renovation during this period, causing difficulty for both Parks Department personnel and visitors.” Senator Felder also noted that there have been issues involving Cool Culture card holders and confusion about program eligibility. He recommended posting Yiddish-speaking Parks staff to tend to visitors and head off any issues.

“Thank God, our community is growing every day, and our large families need safe and enjoyable places to bring our children during school breaks,” said Senator Felder. “Having to

wait on line for hours only to be told something is closed or not accessible is not my version of a happy chol ha'moed."

Brooklyn Borough Parks Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey has been in contact with Senator Felder to review specific plans to better accommodate the large number of visitors.

"Explaining the culture and traditions of our community to government agencies helps them to be more sensitive and better equipped to handle our needs," Senator Felder added.

"Communication and planning between city agencies, elected officials, and community leaders means fewer misunderstanding or disappointments."