Valerie S. Mason
Chair

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The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan

September 21, 2026

Tricia Shimamura
Commissioner
Department of Parks & Recreation
830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY 10065

RE: Request naming a part of Ruppert Park in honor of Rita Popper

Dear Commissioner Shimamura,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on September 16, 2026, the board unanimously approved the following resolution by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention and 0 not voting for cause:

> **WHEREAS** that Community Board 8 Manhattan is very sorry to learn of the passing of Rita Popper, a long-standing member of this committee, who worked very hard in getting Ruppert Park renovated; and
>
> **WHEREAS** that Community Board 8 Manhattan realizes that it takes three years to have something named for a person after they have passed away; and
>
> **WHEREAS** that Community Board 8 Manhattan would like to have a portion of the park named after Rita Popper, such as: Rita Popper's Playground, Rita Popper's Lawn, Rita Popper's Area, or Rita Popper's Multi-purpose Area;
>
> **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Community Board 8 Manhattan requests that part of Ruppert Park be named for Rita Popper with the understanding the final choice will be made by Commissioner Shimamura.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason *Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson and Judith Schneider*

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, and Judith Schneider
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee

cc: Honorable Steve Simon, Chief of Staff to the Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Department of Parks & Recreation
Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State
Honorable Zohran Mamdani, Mayor of the City of New York
Honorable Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative

Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member, 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member, 76th Assembly District
Honorable Julie Menin, Speaker, NYC Council, 5th Council District
Honorable Virginia Maloney, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Elsie Encarnacion, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District