



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

SCOTT M. STRINGER
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

**Testimony of Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer
To the Art Commission re: Construction of Playground,
Pavilion and Northern Plaza at Union Square Park
May 15, 2006**

My name is Scott M. Stringer, Manhattan Borough President, and I would like to thank the Art Commission for holding a public hearing on this important project. I would also like to commend the work of all of the concerned citizens, elected officials and Community Board 5 members who have taken a strong interest in the renovation of the northern end of Union Square Park.

The most important part of the development is the new playground. Regardless of the other aspects of the plan, the playground must proceed immediately. Children and parents who use Union Square are long overdue for a spacious, well-equipped, ADA compliant playground.

Since my earliest days in public service I have continually advocated for public space for public use. Alternate uses for the historic pavilion which incorporate public needs should be explored. The structure is a beacon for Union Square Park and any new development in the pavilion should benefit all park users.

I look forward to the day in the near future when a modern, safe, and spacious playground is enjoyed by parents and children in Union Square Park. As your Borough President I will continue to fight for our public spaces, for their improvements, accessibility and preservation.