



Diane Collier  
*Chair*

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*District Manager*

## COMMUNITY BOARD ELEVEN

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November 30, 2017

Bennett I. Schlansky, Esq.  
Managing Director  
SPORTIME Randall's Island  
One Randall's Island  
New York, NY 10035

Dear Mr. Schlansky,

Community Board 11 strongly supports the expansion of the Sportime Tennis Center at Randall's Island, and encourages the Franchise & Concession Review Committee to approve an amendment to Sportime's license agreement to permit the expansion to move ahead.

Community Board 11 and Sportime have worked together closely for nearly six years to expand tennis programming and education for local youth, area schools and community based organizations. During this time, Sportime has demonstrated a commitment to exposing local children and families to tennis, allowing kids to develop skills—through weekly school-sponsored programming at Randall's Island, weekend and summer tennis instruction, and scholarships awarded to young players in East Harlem. We are encouraged by the feedback CB11 has received from local schools, kids and parents hailing the success and popularity of these programs.

Furthermore, we are aware that the tennis instruction currently being provided, and that which is planned in the context of an expanded Tennis Center, place this initiative among the most significant investments by any concession in the City.

We are pleased that Sportime's continuing commitment to bringing access and opportunity to our community will also include:

- Expanding free community programming from 2,500 hours a year to 6,000 hours a year. This will more than double the number of hours Sportime currently provides to its 11 partner schools and 450+ children each week, allowing more than 1,300 additional local youth to learn tennis each academic year. New partner schools and/or community-based organizations (CBOs) will be based in Community Board 11 (CB11). Sportime will undertake this programmatic expansion in partnership with CB11's Youth & Education Committee.
- Funding \$1.5 million in improvements to community parks and/or youth play areas in CB11. Sportime will undertake this effort in partnership with CB11's Environment, Open Space and Parks Committee, and the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks).
- Installing lighting at Randall's Island ballfields #20 and #21—an estimated \$750,000+ improvement that will add nearly 2,000 hours per year of evening field time from dusk until 11pm daily (7 days a week), expanding access for local athletes and working families.

- Increasing the number of tennis scholarships awarded to local students from the communities neighboring Randall's Island; presently, almost 25% of Sportime's current scholarship recipients citywide live in or attend school in CB11.
- Constructing U10 (under 10 years of age) Learning Courts at the Tennis Center for public-only use. This non-revenue generating public amenity will be available for parkgoers, local families and seniors, free of charge. Sportime will provide equipment for player use at no cost.
- Providing night-time court usage to NYC Parks permit holders, expanding access during the after-work hours from 7pm – 11pm.
- Expanding Sportime's offsite, free tennis instruction at local community-based organizations (CBOs) and schools; Sportime will undertake this effort in partnership with the relevant CB11 committees.

We will continue to work with Sportime in exploring how to make courts available at various other times of the day for local tennis players and/or CBOs which may wish to receive instruction from Sportime tennis pros.

We support Sportime's vision that communities surrounding Randall's Island will soon be home to a new wave of young people who will be able to make tennis a healthy part of their lives and will introduce them to an activity that can provide ongoing opportunities for fun and fitness, whether they play competitively in high school, in college, recreationally or on scholarship, and even on the professional circuit, or simply enjoy the sport as a lifelong community and social activity.

Community Board 11 looks forward to a continued and strong relationship between CB11 and Sportime for many years to come.

If you have any questions, please contact our District Manager, Angel Mescaín at 212-831-8929 or amescain.cb11@gmail.com

Sincerely,



Diane Collier  
Chair

cc: Hon. Melissa Mark-Viverito, Speaker, New York Council (via email)  
 Hon. Gale A. Brewer, Manhattan Borough President (via email)  
 Hon. Robert J. Rodriguez, New York State Assembly (via email)  
 Hon. Jose M. Serrano, New York State Senate (via email)  
 Candy Vives-Vasquez, Community Board 11 (via email)  
 David Giordano, Community Board 11  
 Frances Mastrota, Community Board 11  
 Judith Febbraro, Community Board 11 (via email)