

**YOUTH FOR
CAR-FREE
PARKS.ORG**



A PARK GREEN RESPIRE THE WAY A RELAXING
SHOULD BE... SAFE PARK POLLUTION-FREE
STROLLER FRIENDLY SOOTHING... CAR-FREE
SHOULD BE BEAUTIFUL

127 West 26th Street suite 1002 | New York, NY, 10001

September 3rd, 2008

Honorable Michael Bloomberg
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mayor Bloomberg,

We are four young Brooklynites. We come from every corner of the globe. We are African-American, Jewish, Trinidadian and Chinese. The youngest of us is too young to drive and the oldest of us has yet to cast a vote. We are the face of tomorrow's Brooklyn.

Like so many of our peers, we have grown up in Prospect Park. In this park, we run track, we conduct experiments with our science classes, and we celebrate our proms. Prospect Park is our place to play, relax and study.

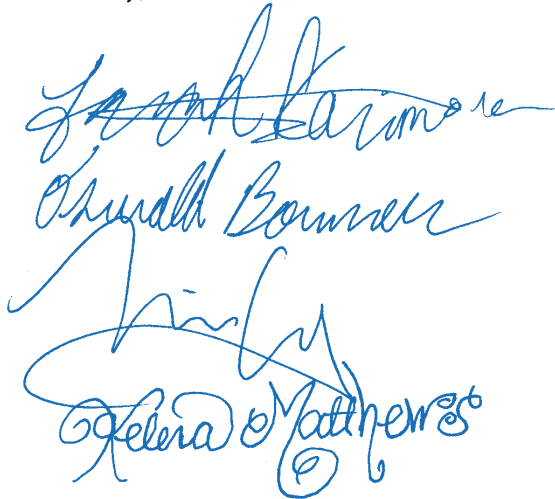
Even though we don't drive, our lives are dominated by the effects of traffic. Two of the four of us suffer from the asthma that plagues many of the city's children and our neighborhood streets are clogged with cars. We know that you are working to make New York City a better place to live for kids like us, and that the decisions that you make today have the power to effect our lives and those of generations yet to come. For this reason, we call upon you to fulfill the goals of PlaNYC in our borough by making Prospect Park a green, healthy, safe and car-free park.

Last year, when you reduced the number of hours that cars were allowed to use the Prospect Park Loop Drive, the DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan remarked that, "The change [reducing car traffic in Prospect Park] will create new opportunities for children and families to enjoy the Prospect Park drive on weekday afternoons," and that your goal was "to let the park be a park as much of the time as possible." We couldn't agree more – a park is not a park when it is full of cars. When there is traffic in Prospect Park, it is no longer our refuge from the noise and pollution that we cope with every day.

For the past three months, we have been working with Transportation Alternatives to engage our neighbors on this issue. Three days a week, we have been walking the loop drive and talking to kids, adults and seniors about their park and its potential (please see our blog, youthforcarfreesparks.org). The wide majority of these park-goers were eager to talk with us and expressed enthusiastic support for our campaign. Many of our fellow Brooklynites also told us that they were proud to see local youth working hard to improve the neighborhood. From these countless conversations, we collected 10,000 letters to you from our Brooklyn neighbors asking for a car-free park.

On September 15, 2008, we are meeting after school at the base of the Brooklyn Bridge with our friends, neighbors and Council Members DeBlasio, Eugene, James and Yassky. Together, we will march across the Brooklyn Bridge to hand deliver these 10,000 letters to you. We hope that you will meet us at City Hall at 5pm to receive these letters and express your personal support for a Prospect Park that is healthy, safe and car-free.

Sincerely,

Four handwritten signatures in blue ink are stacked vertically. The first signature is 'Farah Karimova', the second is 'Oswald Bowman', the third is 'Michael Cheng', and the fourth is 'Kelena Matthews'.

The Prospect Park Youth Advocates:

Oswald Bowman, Kelena Matthews, Farah Karimova and Michael Cheng

CC: Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Commissioner Janette Sadik-Kahn, Borough President Marty Markowitz, Council Member Letitia James, Council Member Bill de Blasio, Council Member David Yassky, Council Member Mathieu Eugene, Tupper Thomas