



**Congressman  
Ritchie Torres**  
540 E Fordham Rd. Suite 2A  
Bronx, New York 10458  
718-503-9610



**Assemblyman  
Jeffrey Dinowitz**  
3107 Kingsbridge Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10463  
718-796-5345



**Council Member  
Eric Dinowitz**  
277 West 231<sup>st</sup> Street  
Bronx, New York 10463  
718-549-7300

**Statement from Congressman Ritchie Torres, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, and Council Member Eric Dinowitz on the proposal to build a temporary 34,000-seat cricket stadium on the Parade Ground of Van Cortlandt Park**

We appreciate the efforts of the Adams Administration to bring matches of the World Cup held by the International Cricket Council to the Bronx and know how meaningful that would be. It is encouraging to see that the ICC and the Adams Administration recognize what we in the Bronx have known for so long: Van Cortlandt Park is the premier park in NYC. While we are heartened to see Van Cortlandt Park recognized as the gem it is, and we appreciate the communication and briefings we have had with the administration, we have also raised concerns with them about how this proposed temporary 34,000-seat stadium and its construction would impact the park and the community.

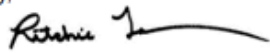
First, regarding the process, we believe that to build this stadium and deprive the community of the use of a large part of the park for an extended period of time, it would require the City to seek the approval of the State Legislature to alienate parkland, something that may be contentious and time-consuming. The State Legislature is not scheduled to reconvene until next year. In addition, approval of this project may require a ULURP and an environmental impact statement.


Second, we are extremely concerned about significant negative physical impacts on Van Cortlandt Park and the surrounding area. The likely damage to the Parade Ground and its underlying infrastructure and the impossibility of ensuring a full restoration and upgrading is concerning; the close proximity to the Enslaved African Burial Ground, coupled with the potential damage it may endure, is undeniably disheartening. It regrettably reflects a deficiency in cultural comprehension and acknowledgment of the somber legacy entrenched within our city, a history we fervently endeavor to rectify. The lack of a legally binding guarantee of large-scale capital improvements to the park that the greater New York community will not have access to for a majority of the year is another roadblock to embracing this proposal. This includes restricted access to New Yorkers who use the parade ground for their own community-based cricket games.

Third, the safety and management of the event and issues in the park that existed before the proposal must be addressed. The potential for thousands of cars to enter the area with no plan yet as to where to put these cars, especially given the great difficulty that already exists for parking, is problematic. If only ten percent of the people coming to each game drive, that's still 3,400 cars. We also have concerns over security. Even before this proposal, the City has denied our request for the permanent assignment of PEP officers to the park and has not successfully addressed the issue of ongoing, large-scale parties at the Shandler Recreation Area. There are also significant sanitation issues related in part to these parties and in part to the sheer size of Van Cortlandt Park. Given these existing issues, we have concerns about the City's ability to address security and quality of life concerns for the duration of the tournament and in perpetuity afterward.

We eagerly anticipate the administration's unwavering commitment to community engagement, recognizing the vital importance of addressing these fundamental concerns before embarking on constructing a stadium.

Sincerely,

  
Ritchie Torres  
Congressman

  
Jeffrey Dinowitz  
Member of Assembly

  
Eric Dinowitz  
Council Member