



THE COUNCIL *of* THE CITY OF NEW YORK

December 20, 2022

Sue Donoghue
Commissioner
New York City Parks Department
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 5th Avenue, Room 203
New York NY, 10065

Commissioner Donoghue:

We urge the New York City Parks Department to work expeditiously with Prospect Park Alliance and community stakeholders to develop a new policy for Prospect Park that allows e-bike users to access the park.

We acknowledge the safety concerns that Prospect Park faces regarding e-bikes that led to the ban. However, e-bikes are legal to ride on New York City streets and make moving around the city more accessible without adding more pollution and congestion to our streets and parks via cars or environmentally unfriendly forms of transportation.

Currently, e-bikes are not allowed in Prospect Park because the Parks Department [defines e-bikes](#) as motor vehicles, putting them in the same category as everything from 4,000 lb. trucks to 6,000 lb. SUVs that may prove deadly to pedestrians and cyclists alike in the event of a crash. Simply put, the Parks Department has no justification for classifying e-bikes in the same category as SUVs or trucks at all, and the Parks Department's current blanket ban on e-bikes in Prospect Park sends the wrong message about our city's values. Keeping safety, equity, accessibility, environmental health, and worker and immigrant justice at the forefront of conversations, we strongly believe that Parks can establish a policy that safely permits bike users to ride in the park.

E-bike users include delivery workers who keep us fed, families on cargo bikes, individuals recovering from surgery, older adults, people who live in areas with fewer public transit options, those who want to limit their carbon footprint by not driving cars, and so many more. In other words, *e-bike users are all New Yorkers.*

As a city, we should be encouraging ebike usage instead of creating zones of inaccessibility within the city.



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As the council members whose districts incorporate Prospect Park, we are eager to work with your agency to establish a community engagement process and craft a policy that permits e-bikes in Prospect Park while also taking into consideration safety concerns. We look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shahana Hanif".

Shahana Hanif
Council Member, District 39

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Hudson".

Crystal Hudson
Council Member, District 35

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Joseph".

Rita Joseph
Council Member, District 40

cc: Martin Maher, Brooklyn Borough Commissioner, Parks Department
Davey Ives, Chief of Staff to the Brooklyn Borough Commissioner, Parks Department
Deborah Malone, Senior Legislative Representative, Office of the Mayor
Morgan Monaco, President, Prospect Park Alliance
Deborah Kirschner, VP of Communications + External Relations, Prospect Park Alliance