

JAMES SANDERS JR.

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May 18, 2022

Commissioner Susan Donoghue
NYC Parks and Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Dear NYC Commissioner Donoghue,

I was deeply alarmed to find out about the planned closures of beaches along the Rockaway Peninsula during the busiest time of year from Memorial Day weekend to the end of July, when residents enjoy going to these areas for recreation and businesses depend on the influx of patrons to stay afloat, especially after being hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Closing any of our beaches during this time would be disastrous for our community and I respectfully ask that NYC Parks work with the Army Corps of Engineers to create an alternate plan. I am ready to join my colleagues in government to offer my support in creating a strategy that works best for the community while still allowing the necessary construction that needs to take place to proceed.

I have reviewed the most recent NYC Parks schedule, which allows swim, sand and recreation at a handful of beaches, and only sand and recreation at others. However, it says no access from Beach 92nd Street to Beach 95th Street, no access from Beach 109th Street to Beach 111th Street, and periodic sand and water closures for dune construction from Beach 136th Street to Beach 149th Street. While this plan avoids a total shut down, it favors certain communities while hurting others. I would ask that all closures be postponed until after the summer when the summer beach season has ended to prevent disrupting these vital areas of the community, and that all beaches be fully opened and lifeguard ready for the summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Sanders Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Sanders Jr.
Senator, 10th District