

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **2021 NYC Council Candidates Issue Statement on Youth Sports Organizations Permit Issue with NYC Parks Department**

NEW YORK CITY - 2021 NYC Council Candidates Dan Cohen, Rita Joseph, and Juan Ardila issued the following statement on the NYC Parks Department declining to issue permits to youth sports organizations:

Dan Cohen stated: "Since March, parents across the city have been working hard to continue educating their children remotely and trying to keep them from going stir-crazy during the City's mandatory quarantine period. Now that we have reached important milestones in our efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, including reaching Phase 3 of the state's reopening guidelines allowing sports, we need to ensure that our children finally have an opportunity to get outside and just be kids."

Rita Joseph stated: "In addition to putting forward concrete plans for school re-opening and providing the resources needed to do that safely, the City also needs to ensure our students' safety once they leave the physical or virtual classroom. It's a shame that the Mayor and the NYC Parks Department have instituted this policy. Parents are already dealing with a lot between schooling and work, we should be adding programs and resources for them, not making the situation more difficult to manage."

Juan Ardila stated: "Declining to issue permits to organized youth sports organizations won't stop these activities from happening, but it will stop them from happening safely for thousands of children across the city. If we can figure out how to do outdoor dining safely, we can do this too."

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## **About the Candidates**

Dan Cohen, Democrat for New York City Council, District 7 - [www.Cohen2021.com](http://www.Cohen2021.com)

Dan Cohen is a native New Yorker and an affordable housing advocate with deep roots in his community. He works at the Housing Partnership, an affordable housing nonprofit. Since 2010 Dan has been the elected Democratic State Committeeman for the 69th Assembly District. He is also a member of Community Board 9, President of the Valley Restoration Local Development Corporation, and on the board of Friends of Morningside Park. Dan is a proud public-school graduate as well as current public-school parent, and serves on the school PTA. Dan and his family are members of Congregation Rodeph Sholom, and he was raised in rent-regulated housing on Manhattan's Upper West Side in the same neighborhood where he lives with his wife and young son today.

Juan Ardila, Democrat for New York City Council, District 30 - [www.JuanforthePeople.com](http://www.JuanforthePeople.com)

Juan is a lifelong Queens resident. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from Fordham University, and his master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Policy Analysis from NYU. Before that, Juan graduated from Archbishop Molloy High School in Briarwood and graduated from St. Adalberts in his earlier years. He currently works at a legal service nonprofit working to guarantee that New Yorkers, such as

seniors, have access to the legal representation they deserve for every issue that matters, from housing, to employment, to disability, to public benefits.

Rita Joseph, Democrat for New York City Council, District 40 - [www.RitaJoseph.com](http://www.RitaJoseph.com)

Rita Joseph is an educator at PS 6 Brooklyn, mother of four, and candidate for NYC Council in the 40th Council District (Crown Heights, East Flatbush, Flatbush, Kensington, Midwood, Prospect Park, and Prospect Lefferts Gardens). She holds a BS in Liberal Arts from St. Francis College and a dual Master's in General and Special Education from Touro College. Rita currently resides in Prospect Lefferts Gardens raising her four children.