



NYC Parks

## METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART PLAZA CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

### **Notice: Construction at Metropolitan Museum of Art Plaza and Impact on Expressive Matter Vendors**

Planned reconstruction of the plaza in front of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (“the Museum”) will begin on October 15, 2012, and continue for approximately two years. During the plaza reconstruction, designated spots for expressive matter vendors in the plaza will be inaccessible to vendors because of ongoing construction activity. The plaza areas where other vendors operate will also be disrupted.

To allow for additional space to vend to address the displacement of expressive matter vendors, the Commissioner of the Department of Parks & Recreation has issued a variance to the Parks Rules so that expressive matter vendors will be allowed to vend at the perimeter of Central Park (the West side of Fifth Avenue) between East 77th and East 78th Streets without complying with the requirement that they only vend at a designated spot. The variance will be in effect throughout the construction period, unless it is determined during the construction that vending cannot be safely accommodated at the new location.

While vending in the area covered by the variance, the expressive matter vendors must continue to comply with all other Parks Rules, including the general rules applicable to expressive matter vendors as set forth in Title 56 §1-05(b)(4)-(8) of the Parks Rules.

These general rules, among other requirements, direct that display stands must: (a) provide at least a twelve (12) foot wide clear pedestrian path; (b) occupy no more than eight (8) feet long by three (3) feet wide parallel to the curb or park path; (c) abut the sidewalk curb; (d) be more than five (5) feet from any park or street furniture; or (e) be more than fifty (50) feet from any public art installation or monument, including ornamental fountains.

The Department would like to remind expressive matter vendors that they may also vend at numerous other locations in Central Park where they are not required to vend from designated spots. Such locations include, but are not limited to the perimeter of Central Park above 85th Street. Please visit the Parks website for the full text of Parks Rules and additional information about the rules relating to expressive matter vending at [www.nycgovparks.org/rules](http://www.nycgovparks.org/rules).

The variance and any changes or revocation will be posted on Parks’ website at [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks). In addition, as part of a general outreach program Parks Enforcement Patrol (“PEP”) will make reasonable efforts to notify and educate the expressive matter vendors at the Museum plaza prior to October 15, 2012, and as necessary and appropriate, at such time if the variance is changed or revoked.