



# News from Deputy Minority Leader Senator Jeff Klein

*Representing Bronx and Westchester Counties*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 17th, 2007

Contact: Alexis Grenell  
(800) 822-2049, office  
(646) 509-3554, cell

## **Klein Comes Out For Canines**

*Joins with Pelham Bay Dog Owners Association In Support of Off-Leash Policy*

BRONX, NY –Senator Jeff Klein (D-Bronx/Westchester) joined together with dog-loving members of the Pelham Bay Park Dog Owners Association to support establishing a consistent off-leash policy for New York City parks.

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Adrian Benepe, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks will conduct public hearings to finally establish an official off-leash policy consistent with the needs of both dog owning, and non-dog owning citizens alike. In the last year an off-leash organization filed a law suit to oppose the New York City Department of Parks policy. Although they lost the suite, the judge mandated that the Parks Commissioner establish a policy to satisfy all groups. Senator Klein has reached out to Commissioner Benepe in support of the Pelham Bay Dog Owners Association.

The current Off-leash Hours Policy is only during limited hours: 9 PM to when parks close, and when they re-open to 9AM, and only in designated locations within individual parks.

“The Parks Department needs to put this matter to rest and finally establish a policy by which dog-owners and non-dog-owners can consistently abide. Everyone should be able to enjoy our city’s green spaces,” said Senator Klein.

During New York City's twenty years of experience with this policy, Citywide dog bites have dropped dramatically (in 2006, dog bites hit another historic low and dog bites in parks also dropped to a historic low, representing only 1.6% of Citywide bites), parks are safer, and dogs are more acclimated to urban living with proper off-leash exercise and socialization with other dogs.

Volunteers are invited to attend the hearing on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm at the Chelsea Recreation Center, located at 430 West 25<sup>th</sup> Street. For more information about the hearing and off-leash policies please visit: [www.nycoffleash.com](http://www.nycoffleash.com).