

DON'T BE BULLIED BY PIT BULLS

ZERO TOLERANCE

Pit bulls continue to be a crime problem in New York City's parks. Regular park users can be driven out of their park by dog fights, swings chewed up by pit bulls, dog beatings, and intimidating owners. However, there *are* things that you can do to address the problem:

- ✓ Your park belongs to the community and nobody has the right to scare you out of it. Don't tolerate aggressive pit bull owners taking over your park at any time of the day or night.
- ✓ **Whenever** you see a problem, report it. If you make getting rid of pit bulls a priority, you can succeed. It will take time, phone calls, and persistence, but it can work.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

- ✓ If a dog poses an immediate threat, the Police will send a patrol unit to the scene. **To report an emergency, call 911.**
- ✓ When the police arrive they will stop any fighting or cruelty, and can arrest people for breaking humane laws. They can also take an uncontrolled dog away from its owner.

IN CASE OF INTIMIDATION

- ✓ Police respond faster to emergencies, but they should respond to any complaint. How quickly they come depends on whether there are other crimes in progress. The Police allocate resources based on how many complaints they get on any given problem. **The more you call, the more help they can give you.** If a problem is persistent, have every member of your group call in the same complaint. You should also call Parks at **311**, the City's information line.
- ✓ Both Police and Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers can eject people from the park and issue summonses and fines for violations of park rules.

LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

- ✓ **Attend meetings of your Precinct Community Council** and develop relationships with your Precinct Commander, Community Affairs Officers, and beat officers. If they know you and your problems, they will be more responsive to your complaints. Convince them to send patrols to your park at times when you've noticed problems. Ask them to send the Conditions Unit, which deals with quality of life issues, which regularly patrols problem locations.
- ✓ Though overburdened, the **ASPCA's Humane Law Enforcement Division** (212-876-7700) will send an undercover investigator to your park at problem times if you alert them to persistent animal fighting or cruelty. The investigator will collect evidence of illegal activity, and work with your precinct to arrest and convict the troublemakers.