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# Letter from Donald E. Moore, President of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, to Richard Ravitch, Chairperson of the Charter Revision Commission

Donald E. Moore  
*Brooklyn Botanic Garden*

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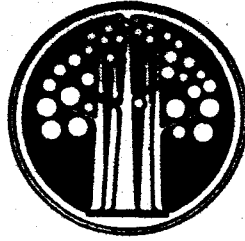
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# Brooklyn Botanic Garden

DONALD E. MOORE  
PRESIDENT

Response - Board of  
Borough Pres  
2/23/88  
for  
private  
meeting

February 1, 1988

David  
Will have your attention  
I hope this  
is  
D

Mr. Richard Ravitch  
Chairperson  
Charter Revision Commission  
11 Park Place - Suite 1616  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Mr. Ravitch:

The cultural institutions of New York City--especially those of the "outer boroughs"--will regard as a grave threat to their very existence any charter revision suggestion that borough presidents be removed from the city budget process.

All of our experience is that any mayor or other city-wide official (indeed any commissioner) ineluctably comes to be concerned primarily with the dominant institutions of the world's "cultural capital," Manhattan--seldom acknowledging or understanding that such things as the zoo and the garden in the Bronx or the aquarium and the garden in Brooklyn are among the world's finest and most important.

At a recent meeting of the Cultural Institutions Group, I had an opportunity to ask Mayor Koch how we could operate if our worst fears about charter revision are confirmed, and this was his reply:

"Simple...you'd go to your councilman."

That is clearly absurd. A councilperson is concerned with the interests and needs of her or

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his district. And the idea that a borough's delegation of as many as 11 councilpersons might function as a unit in representing one or another of the institutions' interests is surely unworkable.

Whatever else the Charter Revision Commission may suggest, we implore you not to propose anything that would remove from the budget process the effective participation of a borough-wide executive for each borough.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Moore", written over a horizontal line.

Donald E. Moore

DEM/ksp