



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER  
SCOTT M. STRINGER

October 2, 2019

Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP  
The Arsenal, Central Park  
830 5th Ave., Room 203  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver,

Earlier this year, I released a report on the state of comfort stations in New York City Parks. In addition to reviewing records on the location, cleanliness, and accessibility of these bathrooms, my report identified a troubling gap in the availability of changing tables.<sup>i</sup>

According to the latest review conducted by the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), only 387 of the 1,428 bathrooms in Parks' inventory were marked as having a changing station for infants and toddlers.<sup>ii</sup> This left a troubling 1,041 bathrooms without one, including 303 bathrooms in Brooklyn, 299 in Queens, 207 in Manhattan, 183 in the Bronx, and 49 in Staten Island.

As you know, providing space for parents to change diapers and tend to their babies was an important impetus for the massive build out of bathrooms in New York City's parks in the 1930s. At that time, Parks leadership was concerned that parents would "have to trudge home from Central Park every time their baby's diaper need[ed] changing," cutting short their "uninterrupted time outdoors." While policy-makers at that time imagined "diaper-changing stations dotting New York's parks," these changing stations remain far too rare.<sup>iii</sup>

Fortunately, following the release of my report, I was alerted to an important initiative sponsored by Pampers in partnership with Koala Kare, John Legend, and Donte Palmer. As part of their #LoveTheChange campaign, the company promised to donate 5,000 Baby Changing Tables for installation in public restrooms throughout the United States and Canada.<sup>iv</sup>

**My office, with the support of the #LoveTheChange campaign organizers and local advocacy group Up-Stand, is excited to inform you that Pampers is prepared to donate 1,041 comfort stations to the City.** I strongly encourage you to work with my office and representatives from the #LoveTheChange campaign in order to accept this generous donation and promptly install them in every park comfort station in the five boroughs.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together to provide parents and children comfort throughout our public spaces. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Dylan Hewitt, at 212-669-8056 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Stringer  
New York City Comptroller

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<sup>i</sup> <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/discomfort-stations-the-conditions-and-availability-of-nyc-parks-bathrooms/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://data.cityofnewyork.us/City-Government/Parks-Inspection-Program-Comfort-Station-Room-Insp/yp6n-7jdy/data>

<sup>iii</sup> Cohen, Rhaina. "How Wall-Mounted Changing Tables Enabled Moms to Leave the House," The Atlantic. January 7, 2017.

<sup>iv</sup> <https://news.pampers.com/press-release/products-services/pampers-announces-commitment-provide-5000-baby-changing-tables-insta>