




Memorandum

**Department of Parks, Recreation
& Conservation**

DATE: May 1, 2025

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract
Clerk of the Board of Legislators

FROM: Kathleen M. O'Connor 
Commissioner

RE: Emergency Declaration
Playland Park Ride Maintenance

On April 12, 2021 the Board of Legislators adopted an Act authorizing the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into a Second Restated and Amended Playland Management Agreement (the "Second Restated Agreement") with Standard Amusements LLC ("Standard"). The Second Restated Agreement was duly executed on or about July 22, 2021.

On January 21, 2025, the County received a Notice of Termination from Standard effective February 20, 2025, which purports to terminate the Second Restated Agreement. On January 22, 2025 the County sent a response rejecting Standard's Notice of Termination and reciting a number of breaches on the part of Standard. On January 30, 2025, Standard sent another letter stating, *inter alia*, that its termination notice was valid, that Standard will not manage Playland in 2025, and the County's breach claims were frivolous. Thereafter on February 4, 2025 the County sent a letter to Standard's attorneys escalating the dispute to arbitration pursuant to Section 43(ii) of the Second Restated Agreement. In accordance with the Second Restated Agreement the parties have selected arbitrators and have each submitted documents in support of their claims. The arbitration hearing is scheduled to commence on August 12, 2025.

In order to open the iconic Playland Amusement Park for a portion of the 2025 operating season, the County will need to hire a company to inspect specific rides, secure all necessary supplies and parts to operate the rides, repair and thereafter maintain the rides. Standard's abrupt departure leaves the County with little time to properly carry out all of this work. Standard left little or no spare parts in inventory, in some cases did not properly winterize rides and a number of rides were left dis-assembled.

In order to protect County property and personnel and facilitate the return to operation of the Playland Amusement Park as quickly as possible, the County is declaring an emergency situation. As an emergency, this situation could not await competitive bidding. The County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation ("PRC") has selected Zamperla, Inc. ("Zamperla") to perform the necessary emergency work, which includes inspecting, repairing,

replacing and maintaining these specific rides and procuring necessary supplies and parts. Zamperla is a worldwide company that was established in 1966 and which owns and operates rides throughout the world. The County owns 11 rides that were manufactured by Zamperla and a number of other rides manufactured by a company that is no longer in business. Zamperla has not only the familiarity with the rides but has the expertise and ability to provide the parts and maintenance.

Based on the above, it's in the best interest of the County to enter into an agreement with Zamperla on an emergency basis as it is the most timely and fiscally efficient solution and will safeguard the County's property and secure the public safety of park attendees and staff.

As the full extent of the work will not be able to be ascertained until Zamperla, in coordination with PRC staff, has an opportunity to complete and price the work, PRC will at a later date submit a resolution to your Honorable Board requesting approval of the contract with Zamperla.