

## BZ's/NYZS-WCS's Admission Policy Breaches New York State Law

Free Admission Written in Law	Current Admissions Policy
<p>See: Section 1 of <a href="#">Chapter 383 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1991</a> amended Section 8 of <a href="#">Chapter 435 of the Laws of the State of New York 1895</a> and <a href="#">Chapter 924 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1969</a>, also amended Chapter Section 8 of Chapter 435. Section 1 of Chapter 383 amended Section 8 of Chapter 435 and Chapter 924 as follows:</p> <p>“Sec. 8. Admission to the zoological park shall be free to the public for at least three days in each week ...”</p> <p>Amending “Sec. 1. ... Section 8. Admission to the zoological park shall be free to the public for at least [ three days ] <i>one day</i> in each week ...”</p> <p>Chapter 383 again amended Section 8 of Chapter 435 in Section 2 as follows:</p> <p>Amending Sec. 2 .. “Section 8. Admission to the zoological park shall be free to the public for at least [ one day ] <i>three days</i> in each week ...</p> <p>Sec. 3. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, however, that section two of this act shall take effect July 1, 1994.”</p> <p><a href="#">Chapter 924 of the Laws of the State of New York of 1969</a></p> <p>“Sec. 8. ... Admission to the zoological park shall be free to the public for at least [four] <i>three days</i> in each week, subject to such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by said corporation” [italics in original].</p> <p>NOTE: Chapter 924 amends free admission from four to three days. Three days was unamended by Chapter 383 of 1991.</p> <p><a href="#">Chapter 435 of the Laws of the State of New York 1895</a></p>	<p>See: <a href="#">Tickets/Visit</a></p> <p>BZ/NYZS-WCS <b>charges a mandatory admission fee</b> for non-Members, three years old and up, at <b>different fixed fee amounts for each category of visitor</b>. Includes <b>unlimited</b> rides and attractions. Ordered the previous Monday after 5:00 pm, offers Wednesday <b>reduced</b> tickets when ordered the previous Monday after 5:00 pm. These tickets admit up to four guests over age three <b>to the park only</b>. <b>Individual attraction tickets required for premium exhibits and rides require the payment of a fixed fee per person per attraction.</b></p>

"Sec. 8. Admission to the said garden shall be free to the public for **at least four days, one of which shall be Sunday, in each week ...**" [emphasis added]

NOTE: While DPR did not produce a contract specific to BZ/NYZS-WCS, DPR did furnish a [November](#) and [December](#) 2010 letters from **Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe** [letter was not on DPR letterhead] replying to a constituent's letter complaining about the high price of Central Park Zoo tickets. This letter was produced in response to FA's Freedom of Information Law [FOIL] request. Commissioner Benepe wrote that "the **City sets the pricing** at all of the City zoos [and New York Aquarium]," working "very closely with the Wildlife Conservation Society [noting that] **the city supports WCS's tradition to allow free access to the Bronx Zoo every Wednesday** and to the New York Aquarium every Friday after 3pm ..." **Benepe's acknowledgement and approval of limited free access hours are a clear disavowal of New York State law providing free access to New Yorkers "three days" in a week.**

**Because NYZS-WCS continues to operate under the NYZS corporate name, it should be required to meet the provisions of Chapter 435 as amended by Chapter 383 regarding admission provisions. BZ/NYZS-WCS violates New York State law because it [1] **Denies New Yorkers free access "at least three days in each week."****

**Mindful that the NYZS-WCS entities are owned by New York City through DPR, it is offensive that New Yorkers are consciously deprived of our right to free access.** Free access to the PEC institutions is unique to New Yorkers and is provided for in the laws and contracts applicable to the PPP structure. Stewards of PEC institutions may choose to charge an admission fee to other visitors.