

The world's largest global newspaper



metro

NEW YORK • TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008



Prosecutors take 697 weapons in gun buy-back program Law enforcement authorities have collected 697 weapons and as part of a guns-for-money exchange in Brooklyn held over the weekend at six churches. People could turn in handguns loaded in exchange for \$200 bank cards. The weapons had to be in plastic or paper bags or shoe boxes. BB guns and ai

Hot playground fix urged

ANDREW S. GARIB
letters@metro.us



Parents whose kids have been burned by dangerously hot playground mats have an ally at City Hall.

Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum said in a letter to Parks Commissioner Adri-

an Benepe that the black rubber mats, which have caused serious burns to children's feet, should be replaced with safer alternatives. The current mats have reached 160 degrees in the sun.

The shock-absorbing mats "are designed to protect children, but end up burning them and sending them to the hospital," Got-

baum said.

Gotbaum and watchdog NYC Park Advocates recommended mats in lighter colors that won't absorb as much heat from the sun, as advised by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. They also asked for signs that clearly warn parents of the danger of bare skin on hot mats. Current signage that just re-

quires park patrons to wear footwear could be confusing, they said.

Parents of burn victims said they appreciated having Gotbaum on their side. "It's an incredibly big step," said Rich Casson, whose 2-year-old son Will's burned feet were featured on the cover of Metro Friday. "Our goal is to make a change."

Burning issue at hot tot lots

City facing injury lawsuits



Metro, July 21