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Good afternoon and thank you for allowing me to testify at this hearing. My name is Richard Lieberman. I am the Director of the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives and Professor of History at LaGuardia Community College.

Our Archives has the papers of Mayor Edward I.

Koch as well as all the other Mayors since Fiorello

LaGuardia. We are also the official repository for the

City Council papers. I have dedicated most of my

professional life to the teaching and studying of the

history of our city with a focus on Queens. I am the

author of a book on the history of Steinway and Sons
the well-known piano company that few people know is

located in Queens. I had the privilege to be the organizer

of the 75th anniversary of the opening of the

Queensboro Bridge in 1984.

I am here to support the renaming of the Queensboro Bridge to become the Mayor Edward I Koch, Queensboro Bridge.

The records we have at the archives reveal that Mayor Koch saved the Queensboro Bridge from several decades of neglect. During his three terms he lobbied for and won hundreds of millions of dollars to repair the Bridge.

Between 1981 and 1988, the Koch Administration received \$120 million from our state government to rebuild the Queensboro Bridge. As soon as this first phase of reconstruction was completed, Koch pressed the Federal government to spend an additional \$71 million to rebuild the inner roadways. The total of both allocations would be almost \$350 million in today's dollars.

Mayor Koch knew that the Queensboro Bridge was crucial for the economic development of Queens. At the same time that he was working to repair the bridge he was supporting the development of the Citicorp building,

planned to be the largest skyscraper outside Manhattan, to be built in Long Island City. His foresight to restore the Queensboro Bridge and support the construction of the Citicorp building laid the basis for the renaissance of Western Queens, which continues today. It can be seen in Mayor Bloomberg's recent announcement of the first phase of Hunters Point South, the 5,000 unit housing complex now under construction.

One hundred years ago the Queensboro Bridge transformed the economy of Queens and New York City. Thirty years ago Mayor Koch made sure that the Queensboro Bridge would play that role again and thus brought about a new era of economic prosperity in Western Queens. Edward I. Koch richly deserves the recognition of our City for this accomplishment which was part of his larger contribution to the revitalization of New York. Adding his name to the Queensboro Bridge is a fitting tribute to a Mayor who did so much to rejuvenate our city. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF CLAIRE SHULMAN On Intro. 446A Committee on Parks and Recreation Friday, February 18th, 2011

Good Afternoon, Chair Mark –Viverito and Committee Members.

My name is Claire Shulman. I am a Queens resident, and formally it's Borough President.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify at today's hearing, and to express my support for Intro. 446A, which would change the name of the Queensboro Bridge to the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge.

Mayor Koch represents our city even today, he is bold, tough, effective, charming, and he stands firm, each and every day, for the betterment of our neighbors and our city. The same can be said for the Queens Borough Bridge. Just like the New Yorkers who watch him battle for good government causes, the 175,000 motorists who daily travel the Queensboro know that the Bridge won't let them down.

These parallels are not a coincidence. As you may know, both as Congressman and as Mayor Ed provided invaluable support to this Bridge by injecting much needed funds into a Queens Borough renovation project and by reclaiming the East River bridges and revitalizing the Department of Transportation's Capital Fund.

For a moment lets go back to the middle seventies when the city was in the doldrums, depressed both emotionally and financially. The future of this great City was in question. People began to leave. And in comes this tall gangly guy with arms outstretched yelling "how am I doing?" Almost instantly he raised the spirits in the City. He made the people believe that our future was again on an upward spiral.

I therefore ask that you approve Intro 446A and rename the gateway to and from Queens in honor of Mayor Ed Koch. It sure beats calling it the 59th Street Bridge. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony from Rose Hill Housing Management

at the

The New York City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation

regarding a proposed

Local Law in relation to the naming of 67 thoroughfares and public places

Pursuant to reverting back to original street name of "Southern Boulevard" and honorary/secondary street naming of "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Way"

February 18, 2011 1:00pm

My name is Annelen Madigan, I represent the residents of Rose Hill Apartments. I have been the Director of Social Services for Rose Hill Housing Management Corporation since 1997. I would like to thank Chairwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito, as well as the other distinguished Committee Members, for giving Rosehill Housing the opportunity to offer and submit written testimony today regarding Intro. 417 sponsored by Council Member Oliver Koppell, which proposes to revert the street name "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Boulevard" -- running from the intersection of East Fordham Road to the Mosholu Parkway entrance to the Bronx River Parkway in the Bronx Bronx -- back to its original designation of "Southern Boulevard", while simultaneously making "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Way" a secondary honorific street name.

Rose Hill Apartments is a 119 unit, nine-story building, for low income senior citizens and younger disabled persons. We are located across the street from Botanical Gardens, just south of Bedford Park Boulevard. At present we have 136 residents, and there are many more in staff, home care and health care workers, visitors and relatives who travel here each day.

Here are some of the varied problems with our address. Our building was in planning and construction just about the time the naming of street was changed. Our postal address, however, has remained 2855 Southern Blvd. There are constant problems with this duality. First of all, police and fire responders have a difficult time finding our building. Since we work with an older and often more frail population, this is a big problem. Many of our residents also use ambulette services and Access-A-Ride, and have received complaints from their drivers about finding our building. Second, persons trying to visit or deliver goods cannot find us. There is confusion with many GPS systems. Recently, we had considerable trouble getting a new computer component, as FedEx could not find the building. We get many calls from delivery truck drivers and other people who have business to do in the building, who are lost. People often get confused because the Southern Blvd. signs end at Fordham Road.

In short we would be most pleased if the Southern Blvd. name was restored and support any efforts to make this happen. In support of this we had petitions signed twice in the last two years.

We mean no disrespect to the memory of Dr. Kazimiroff, who loved the Bronx and whose work on the history of the borough is most valued, or to his family. The duel name change solution would be an excellent compromise as opposed to a complete name change, and would also relieve any further confusion the complete name change may possibly effect.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony regarding this issue of great importance to the residents of Rose Hill Apartments.

Annelen C. Madigan, LMSW
Director of Social Services
Rosehill Housing Management Corp.
2855 Southern Blvd.
Bronx, NY 10458
P) 718.584.5101
F) 718.584.1423



TESTIMONY

presented by

Lilliam Barrios-Paoli

Commissioner

at a hearing on

Intro 446, Legislation in Relation to Naming the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge

before the

New York City Council Committee Parks and Recreation

on

Friday, February 18, 2011

1:00 PM

at

250 Broadway, 16th Floor

New York, NY

Good morning, Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the Committee on Parks and Recreation. I am Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Commissioner for the Department for the Aging.

I am pleased to be here today to support Intro 446, legislation to honor former Mayor Ed Koch by adding his name to the Queensboro Bridge.

I have both personal and professional reasons for supporting this legislation. My strong personal admiration for Mayor Koch stems from the many years I served in his administration. I worked as Deputy Commissioner for the Human Resource Administration's Special Services for Children, Head of Personnel and Labor Relations for HRA and the Health and Hospitals Corporation, and Commissioner for the Department of Employment under Mayor Koch.

Throughout our long association, I always felt that I was serving a Mayor who was truly committed to the people of New York City. I always could look to Mayor Koch for mentoring, guidance and support in carrying out my duties. Quite simply, he was an inspiration, providing a vision for his commissioners that enabled us to do our best. I would be thrilled to see the Queensboro Bridge as a lasting testament to this great Mayor.

I'd like to speak now as the current Commissioner of the Department for the Aging about the wonderful improvements Mayor Koch brought to the Department, reflecting his commitment to older New Yorkers. The Department wasn't started under Mayor Koch, but the Koch administration built a foundation from which the Department has been able to thrive.

Although there were tremendous developments that fostered new programs for the aging throughout the 1970s, by the early 1980s, cutbacks in federal funds brought this growth to a standstill. Had the City not stepped in to ensure that support for aging services would be sustained, there would have been a critical reduction in services. In fact, programs were not only maintained, but many were expanded. To give you an idea—in 1978 only 3 percent of the Department's budget of \$30 million came from City funds, by 1988, the City provided 35 percent of the Department's \$77 million budget. One out of every three dollars came to the Department from City tax levy funds.

In addition to the commitment of additional city funds for aging services under Mayor Koch, New York City also saw increasing support in dollars and services from the private sector – a direction Mayor Koch actively encouraged. The Mayor had the foresight to understand how this new kind of public/private collaboration could be a major force in moving forward an aging agenda to address emerging needs.

A variety of programs either were initiated or expanded during the Koch administration through partnerships between the public and private sectors. They include CityMeals-on-Wheels, the New York City Alzheimer's and Caregivers Resource Center, the Department's Health Promotion Services Unit, the Intergenerational Work Study Program (in collaboration with the Department of Education and a private donor), and the Partnership for Eldercare—one of the first in the nation to channel corporate resources to programs for caregivers. DFTA's Senior Employment Services opened several new training centers with private support and the agency's Foster Grandparent Program started several new initiatives.

New York City's reputation for groundbreaking studies of emerging needs among the elderly also flowered – and received direct support from Mayor Koch – during the eighties. Most importantly, DFTA's legendary Commissioner, Janet Sainer was appointed by Mayor Koch and served through his entire administration.

In closing, I would say there is a direct bridge between New York City's initiatives in aging during the Koch administration and the many initiatives currently underway to make the City pre-eminent among the age-friendly cities of the world. What better way to honor Mayor Koch and to affirm his strong legacy as a leader of this great City than to add Ed's name to the Queensboro Bridge.

Statement of Robert B. Tierney at the New York City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation February 18, 2010

Good morning Chairperson Mark-Viverito and members of the Parks and Recreation Committee. My name is Bob Tierney, and I am Chairman of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with the Administration's comments on Intro 446-A.

Intro 446-A would amend the City Map to re-designate the Queensboro Bridge as the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge.

As Mayor Bloomberg has noted, the Queensboro bridge, like Ed Koch, "is a resilient, hardworking New York City icon that's been bringing people together for a long time – and will probably outlast us all."

The Queensboro bridge lies within the boundaries of the congressional districts represented by Mayor Koch when he served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1969 to 1977, representing New York's then 17th and 18th Congressional Districts.

When Mayor Koch assumed office, the Queensboro Bridge had reached near-critical condition, with corrosion throughout the bridge, closed outer roadways because they were no longer safe to use, and much of the bridge had not been inspected in nearly a decade, all due to a lack of funding.

Mayor Koch played a critical role in saving the City's bridges, including this one. When he took office, the City had no capital program to repair transportation infrastructure – an impact of the 1970's fiscal crisis. Despite extremely difficult fiscal circumstances, Mayor Koch re-started the Department of Transportation's capital program and began the work of rebuilding the City's transportation infrastructure that Mayor Bloomberg continues today.

During the fiscal crisis, the City's East River bridges, including the Queensboro Bridge, had been turned over to New York State for stewardship, as the City was no longer able to maintain the structures. Under Mayor Koch, the City regained control of the bridges and began restoring and repairing. Mayor Koch invested in the Queensboro Bridge and began its first major rehabilitation.

Mayor Koch created the Bureau of Bridges within the Department of Transportation and fully funded the bureau. Previously, bridges were considered an afterthought to highway work and had fallen into a state of disrepair citywide. The City has reduced the number of bridges in poor condition from 74 in 1986 to zero bridges used by vehicles today, due to the work of the bureau founded under Mayor Koch.

Originally named the Blackwell's Island Bridge, the Queensboro Bridge carries more than 175,000 motorists every day and connects 59th Street in Manhattan and Long Island City in Queens, offering views of midtown Manhattan, highlighted by the Empire State Building, the Chrysler Building and the United Nations.

Opened to traffic on March 30, 1909, the bridge's construction had begun in 1901 as a collaboration between bridge engineer Gustav Lindenthal and architect Henry Hornboste, with 75,000 tons of steel going into the original bridge and its approaches. The original cost of construction was approximately \$18 million, including \$4.6 million for land purchases. At the time of completion, it was the longest cantilever bridge in the United States. It was designated a New York City landmark on April 16, 1974.

The Queensboro Bridge is the longest of the four East River bridges, and the only one of them that is not a suspension bridge.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak in support of Intro 446-A.

Testimony of Fordham University

at the

The New York City Council

Committee on Parks and Recreation

hearing regarding a proposed

Local Law pursuant to reverting back to original street name of "Southern Boulevard" and honorary/secondary street naming of "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Way"

February 18, 2011

1:00pm

My name is Joe Muriana, and I am Associate Vice President for Government & Urban Affairs at Fordham University. First, I would like to thank Chairwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito, as well as the other distinguished Committee Members here present, for giving Fordham the opportunity to offer and submit written testimony today regarding Intro. 417 sponsored by Council Member Oliver Koppell. Intro. 417 proposes to revert the street name "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Boulevard" -- running from the intersection of East Fordham Road to the Mosholu Parkway entrance to the Bronx River Parkway in the Bronx -- back to its original designation of "Southern Boulevard", while simultaneously making "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Way"

a secondary honorific street name, in accord with the current NYC Council practice to pay homage to distinguished departed members of the community. Dr. Kazimiroff was most assuredly a distinguished Bronx resident and a civic leader whose legacy spanned the entire Borough of the Bronx as a co-founder of the Bronx County Historical Society and a most notable 20th century Bronx voice in and for the community.

Fordham thus supports the "Dual Name" compromise that was proposed and advanced by Bronx Community Board #7, and acceded to by the Kazimiroff family, for which we are most grateful. The reasons for our supporting this secondary street naming are manifold, diverse and wide-ranging. Primary among them is our concern about the confusion initially generated by the fact that the United States Postal Service has, for the better part of the past three decades since the original name change, refused to officially recognize the time of the street name change to the currently existing Kazimiroff designation. More recently, many mapping tools and global positions systems (GPS) only recognize the original "Southern Boulevard" designation, even though physical signs designate the same section of road as "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Blvd.". This current duality has, over the years, resulted in confusion and resultant difficulty for emergency responders such as police and firefighters to promptly identify locations where assistance is needed, especially with respect to the Senior Citizens living at 2855 Southern/Kazimiroff Blvd. known as the Rose Hill Apartments, a 119 unit, nine-story building, for low income senior citizens and younger disabled persons sponsored by Fordham University, and located across from the Botanical Garden and just south of Bedford Park Boulevard. These residents must use Southern Boulevard as their mailing address, but then must remember to use Kazimiroff when calling for police and EMS/Fire response. A tough situation for elderly residents.

Additionally, as the use of GPS has increased, the delivery of goods, mail, and the ability for visitors and deliveries to locate Fordham, and other institutions and entities, has been increasingly hindered. For example when potential visitors and delivery drivers conduct a search with the aid of "Google Maps," they find over a half a half-dozen separate addresses that incorrectly identify the street and Fordham University's location, which has its main vehicle entrance on Kazimiroff/Southern. The NYBG has struggled with similar problems. These various addresses can give the prospective delivery person or visitor the general vicinity, but none of them are very clear with respect to the location of our institution, and prospective delivery

drivers end up confused, and frequently lost. Many end up turning around and leaving the Bronx with frustration without making their deliveries. It is this that we also seek to remedy.

Fordham University recognizes the valuable contributions that Dr. Kazimiroff has made to the Bronx and the City of New York. It is always has been our intention to continue to honor his legacy and pay homage to his valuable work while resolving any directional and locational challenges that continue to be experienced as a result of the name confusion.

Therefore, we fully support reverting the legal street name back to "Southern Boulevard", and making "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Way" the secondary honorific street name, as this will maintain the public honor originally intended while eliminating the health and safety, post office delivery, and transportation issues that are currently a problem for us and our neighbors, including the New York Botanical Garden, the Rose Hill Apartments, and the Fordham Preparatory School.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify today.

Contact Information:

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Associate Vice- President for Government and Urban Affairs
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Testimony of The New York Botanical Garden

at the

The New York City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation

hearing regarding a proposed

Local Law pursuant to reverting back to original street name of "Southern Boulevard" and honorary/secondary street naming of "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Way"

February 17, 2011 1:00pm

Good afternoon, my name is Joshua Rivera, Director of Government Relations at The New York Botanical Garden. First, I would like to thank Chairwoman Melissa Mark-Viverito, as well as the other distinguished Committee Members, for providing the Garden the opportunity to testify today in support of Intro. 417, sponsored by Council Member Oliver Koppell, which proposes to revert the street name "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Boulevard", from East Fordham Road to Mosholu Parkway in the Bronx, to its original designation of "Southern Boulevard" and make "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Way" a secondary/honorary street name as is the current practice to pay homage to distinguished members of the community.

Our reasons for supporting this secondary street naming are varied. In the forefront is our concern for the safety of our visitors, vendors, employees and neighbors. The U.S. Postal Service, 911 dispatchers, mapping tools and global positioning systems (GPS) do not uniformly recognize "Southern Boulevard" or, as the physical signs designate an overlapping section of road, as "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Boulevard." This current duplicity has resulted in difficulty for emergency responders such as police and firefighters to promptly locate buildings where assistance is needed. Prolonged response times present a serious concern for us and our neighbors such as the Rose Hill Apartments, a 119 unit, nine-story building, for low income senior citizens and younger disabled persons, located across from the Garden and just south of Bedford Park Boulevard.

Additionally, as the use of online mapping and GPS increases, the delivery of goods, mail, and the ability for visitors to locate our institution is hindered. For example, when potential visitors conduct a search with the aid of "Google Maps," they find many different addresses for the Garden. They include: 2694 Southern Boulevard; 200th Street and Kazimiroff Boulevard; Bronx River Parkway and Fordham Road; and 2900 Southern Boulevard. For those systems that do recognize Kazimiroff Blvd, you must type it in as "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff Blvd." It is often the case that the street name you are familiar with or found online, is not the exact same address recognized

by the particular GPS or online mapping system you chose to utilize. The Garden's main operator receives phone calls on a daily basis from frustrated potential patrons, many who never end up finding or visiting the Garden, or then patronizing Arthur Avenue or other local businesses in the area.

The New York Botanical Garden recognizes the valuable contributions that Dr. Kazimiroff has made to the Bronx and the City of New York. It is, and always has been, our intention to honor his legacy and pay homage to his valuable work while resolving any directional challenges that are currently being experienced.

Therefore, we fully support returning the street name to "Southern Boulevard", and making "Dr. Theodore Kazimiroff" the secondary/honorary street name, as this will maintain the public honor originally intended and will eliminate the safety, post office delivery, and transportation issues that are currently a problem for us and our neighbors, including Fordham University and Rose Hill Apartments.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify today.

Contact Information:

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