



**Hearing before the New York City Council
Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks
September 17, 2013**

Testimony By: Veronica M. White, Commissioner

Good afternoon, Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council's Committee on Parks and Recreation. I am Veronica White, Commissioner for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. I am joined here today by a number of my senior staff. With me on this panel are First Deputy Commissioner, Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Commissioner for Community Outreach, Larry Scott Blackmon and our Director of Government Relations, Karen Becker. Additionally, we have our Assistant Commissioner for Marketing & Revenue, Betsy Smith and several of our park administrators who you will be hearing from later this afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to speak before you today about conservancies as well as similar entities, and the important role public-private partnerships play in parks across New York City.

Thanks to your advocacy and hard work, the Parks Department has the highest adopted operating budget in its history. With more than 29,000 acres, equivalent to 14% of the land in New York City, the Parks Department works with civic-minded partners to augment services in parks across the five boroughs. These partners act as cheerleaders and benefactors of particular parks, and they play an important role in the success of the City's parks through their collaboration with the Parks Department. The largest role our partners play is in cultivating and engaging volunteers who give their time, energy, and enthusiasm to care for parks throughout the City. In calendar year 2012, volunteers dedicated 1.5 million hours to parks across the five boroughs, facilitated by a diverse group of partners, such as the Bronx River Alliance and the Friends of Kaiser Park in Coney Island.

These partners include conservancies, alliances, funds, trusts, foundations, "friends of" groups, and other entities that are found in all five boroughs. The names they choose do not indicate a particular legal status, mission, or funding source. What is most important to all these groups, whether it is the Astoria Park Alliance, the Greenbelt Conservancy in Staten Island, the Fort Tryon Park Trust, or the City Parks Foundation, is that they all share the same goals: to assist the Parks Department in making New York City parks the best they can be and to encourage others to become involved with this effort.

Our not for profit partners serve to augment the work of the men and women of the Parks Department, and do not replace City services or authority. It is the Parks Department that sets the policies for all New York City parks, regardless of any public-private partnership that might support a park. It is the Parks Department that approves every capital project, determines and approves every concession on parkland, and issues every permit affecting parkland. These facts often are misunderstood and it is important to recognize that while the Parks Department coordinates closely with its partners, and gratefully accepts all assistance, it does not cede its authority to determine policy or activity on City property.

Some parks require specialized focus due to their size, particular needs, and other challenges and opportunities. Under Mayor Koch, Parks Commissioner Gordon Davis, recognizing that certain large parks needed comprehensive coordination by Parks Department staff, created the position of Park Administrator. Currently, there are 23 Park Administrators reporting directly to their respective borough commissioner. Park Administrators focus on daily maintenance and operations; develop park programming; cultivate relationships with local businesses, community groups, and government entities; and work with our Capital Projects division on projects in the parks they oversee. In many

cases, Park Administrators work closely with public and private partners to accomplish these tasks and goals. Where there is a non-profit affiliated with the park, they work to raise funds and develop programs in consultation with the organization and the borough commissioner.

Public-private partnerships are not new to the City. In 1945 a public-private partnership was formed to host a Christmas tree lighting ceremony to honor soldiers lost in WWII. This became the genesis for what is now known as the Fund for Park Avenue which to this day holds their annual holiday lighting and provides temporary public art installations from 54th to 86th Streets. Their work was replicated and served as a model for other groups, such as the Broadway Mall Association, which formed in 1980 to help care for the malls along Broadway from the Upper West Side through Harlem to Washington Heights. The founding of the Central Park Conservancy in 1980 and the Prospect Park Alliance in 1987 set the stage for the revitalization of parks across the city. This revival of New York City parks was made possible by an increase in the involvement of citizens, volunteers, and advocates. Our partners have assisted us by planting trees during our MillionTrees biannual planting day events, by providing volunteers for activities during the Partnerships for Parks "It's My Park Day," and they continue to play an important role in our recovery from Hurricane Sandy. The Parks Department is proud of the work of our partners, including many of you, who have participated in and sponsored service and recreational events in New York City parks throughout the year.

A contractual relationship is not required for the Parks Department to collaborate with a non-profit organization. However, some of our partners do have a contract with the City. We have active agreements with partners large and small, from little leagues that care for and maintain the ballfields they play on, to larger non-profit organizations that assist with horticultural maintenance, to business improvement districts (BIDs), and cultural organizations such as botanical gardens and zoos. These partners have agreed to maintain some aspect of City land and, in these cases, we feel it is prudent for the City to have a contractual arrangement to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities.

Our most comprehensive contractual relationship is with the Central Park Conservancy. With over 40 million visitors a year, there is no other park that attracts the same volume of users as Central Park. The Parks Department has a procurement contract with the Central Park Conservancy where the Conservancy has agreed to perform routine maintenance and repairs in Central Park, raise funds for the preservation of Central Park, and program events in Central Park. CPC also agreed to perform routine maintenance and repairs of the fountains at Bowling Green, City Hall Park, and Manahatta Park, the fountains and landscaping at Frederick Douglass Circle, and Columbus Circle; and the landscaping at Duke Ellington Circle, the Broadway Malls Greenstreet between West 57th and West 59th Streets, Morningside Park, St. Nicholas Park, Jackie Robinson Park, and Marcus Garvey Park. All CPC activities are subject to the Parks Department's approval and the Parks Commissioner sits on the board of the Conservancy. In turn, as part of the City's obligation to the Park, the City has committed to contributing specific funds to further support the Conservancy's maintenance efforts in the Park and through a separate agreement to provide capital funding to assist the Conservancy in providing needed capital enhancements in the Park. Central Park serves as a model for urban parks worldwide. The Conservancy provides technical, management and fundraising advice to park systems around the country and the world.

With eight to ten million visitors each year, Prospect Park is another example of a landmark City park in which a non-profit organization supplements the work of the Parks Department, subject to our approval and oversight. The Parks Department has a maintenance and operation agreement with the Prospect Park Alliance where the Alliance has agreed to perform routine maintenance and repairs in Prospect Park, raise funds for the preservation of Prospect Park, and program events and services in the park. The Parks Commissioner is a member of the Alliance's board and all Prospect Park Alliance activities in the park are subject to Parks' approval.

Regardless of whether there is a contract, in all cases it has been civic-minded individuals within the public, private, and non-profit sectors that have taken the initiative to step forward and engage with local parks, improving the quality of life throughout New York City. Most notable are Betsy Barlow Rogers and Tupper Thomas, City employees and the first administrators of Central Park and Prospect Park, respectively, who founded the Central Park Conservancy and the Prospect Park Alliance.

New partnerships have their roots in the needs of the Agency and interests of specialized or focused groups. Each one has unique aspects, reflecting the character and goals for the properties they are founded to support.

For example, the Natural Areas Conservancy was formed in 2012 to expand the Parks Department's restoration and conservation work in the City's natural areas. A little known fact is that 10,000, or roughly one third, of our parkland are natural areas. These areas have no natural local constituency, so the Natural Areas Conservancy sponsors programs that enhance the capacity of the Parks Department to study and manage natural areas to provide the greatest value for all New Yorkers.

Another example of an emerging partner is The Flushing Meadows Corona Park Alliance which was recently conceived, spearheaded by Council Member Julissa Ferreras and the surrounding community, to bring additional resources, volunteers, and attention to this jewel of the Queens park system.

Conservancies have been at the forefront of innovative management and emerging trends in urban park development for over 30 years. The Central Park Conservancy is of course the best known of our partners, but many other groups make important contributions to parks throughout the City. The Bryant Park Corporation uses extensive research into the social dynamics of public spaces to develop programs, events and attractions that have been emulated by parks all over the world. The Prospect Park Alliance pioneered urban ecosystem preservation with the award winning "Ravine Project" that saved Brooklyn's last forest. The Greenbelt Conservancy helped preserve thousands of acres of public and private open space on Staten Island and kept our Native Plant Center alive at a time when we were unable to sustain it in the late 1990's. Socrates Sculpture Park and Madison Square Park both bring public art into the daily life of New Yorkers in very different, yet equally compelling, settings. In Queens the Forest Park Trust expanded its scope to neighboring Highland Park, bringing events, programs and activities to the East New York and Cypress Hills communities, while also reviving the historic Children's Garden. The Open Space Alliance takes a different approach, providing an umbrella organization for all parks in the north Brooklyn communities of Greenpoint and Williamsburg. In addition to saving dozens of community gardens, the New York Restoration Project took an undeveloped site along the Harlem River Drive and turned it into a vibrant destination for the youth of Washington Heights and Inwood. The Lower East Side Ecology Center, long a leader in sustainable practices, offers composting, environmental education and stewardship in East River Park.

Building on a model that the City Council established with the passage of Local Law 55, which created the Adopt-A-Park program in 2003, the Parks Department plans to launch a citywide campaign so that anyone can contribute to the care and vitality of NYC Parks. Local Law 55 was created to establish a source of funding through community involvement and direct financial giving. The Council's Adopt-A-Park model allows anyone to give to parks on a broad level and beginning this fall, we will be launching a citywide fundraising campaign in partnership with the City Parks Foundation to continue to expand upon these goals. The City Parks Foundation is a public-private partnership that provides free and accessible arts, sports, education and community-building programs within New York City parks.

Currently, CPF raises money to support programs in parks across the city and in some cases acts as a conduit for funding and fundraising for a number of our park partner

organizations and we are excited to partner with them on this new campaign. The Parks Department supports CPF by providing in-kind support in the form of contributed personnel, office space and computer/telecommunication equipment and services. In FY14, the Council contributed \$155,500 which when combined with private fundraising efforts, special events, and corporate sponsorships, enabled CPF to teach 12,000 children how to play tennis and golf, participate in track and field and provide education programs to over 6,000 students and professional development teachers. CPF also entertained over 110,000 New Yorkers of all ages with free cultural programs and worked with thousands of individuals to create vibrant, clean, and active parks in underserved communities.

While we welcome citywide fundraising efforts, financial contributions cannot replace the priceless dedication of volunteers. Because we appreciate all forms of support for our parks, we encourage all New Yorkers to join us by becoming active and involved in their local parks. They can join an existing group or start a new one by working with Partnerships for Parks, which is a public-private initiative between New York City Parks and the City Parks Foundation. Through programs like People Make Parks, which is facilitated by Partnerships for Parks, community groups are provided with tools and resources to effectively contribute to their local park. No group is too large or too small to make an impact.

Seeing is really believing in all of our parks and we invite you all to come and see the amazing work we have done with our partners. You have may have seen our ad campaign on buses and subways encouraging all New Yorkers to "Go Park". Go Park is an awareness campaign that highlights the diversity of NYC Parks resources, encourages exploration, and builds pride for New York City parks. The goal is to encourage New Yorkers to use, care for, and support their parks. The specific campaign themes promote park resources, highlight unique park features, and reinforce agency priorities. This campaign highlights another example of one of our many public-private partnerships and we thank NYC & Company, Infina and Metlife for their pro-bono work and support. I'd like to take a moment to share a few slides with you from our social media campaign.

Before the weather gets cold, come take a canoe trip along the Bronx River with Park Administrator Linda Cox to see the revitalized river. I know several Council Members joined us for a tour of Freshkills Park with Park Administrator Eloise Hirsh, but come and join us for the biannual Freshkills sneak peak on September 29th. This fall we will be cutting a ribbon on the Lakeside Center which is a \$74 million reconstruction of the area around Wollman Rink in Prospect Park that when opened will include two new ice-skating rinks and one roller skating rink, a promenade along the lake's shore, expanded picnic areas, walkways, and open lawns with five new acres of green space and twenty-six acres of renovated parkland. This vision of creating a year-round destination and revitalized historical landscaping was conceived by the Prospect Park Alliance and we welcome you to tour the restored area with Park Administrator and Alliance President, Emily Lloyd.

These are only a few examples of all the great things that are happening in our parks with the assistance of our partners. Conservancies of all types have helped develop brand new parks in Staten Island, restored natural areas along the Bronx River and reconstructed historic and established portions of parks in Brooklyn. I thank you for the opportunity to come before you this afternoon and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation

Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee, I am Jennifer Hoppa and I am the Administrator for Northern Manhattan Parks and the Executive Director of the Fort Tryon Park Trust. Thank you for allowing me to come before you to talk about our organization and the role we play in Fort Tryon Park.

Fort Tryon Park is a 67-acre open space treasure in Washington Heights that John D. Rockefeller, Jr. gifted to the City of New York 78 years ago this October. This historic park offers breathtaking views of the Palisades, 8 miles of pathways, lawns, a dog run, playgrounds, and the largest public garden with unrestricted access in New York City, the Heather Garden. It is a neighborhood asset, serving the diverse community residents of Washington Heights and Inwood, 20 percent, or 38,000, are children and youth under the age of 18, and 50 percent of which receive some form of income assistance. It is also a regional and international destination given its scenic landmark status, world class horticulture, and Cloisters Museum, which sees 250,000 visitors from around the world annually.

The Fort Tryon Park Trust was formed in 1998 and our mission is to promote the restoration, preservation and enhancement of John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s 1935 gift to New York City for the benefit and use of the surrounding community and all New Yorkers. Our board is comprised of local leaders, representatives from area institutions, such as the YMHA; civic organizations such as the Washington Heights Business Improvement District and the Washington Heights and Inwood Chamber of Commerce; and individuals with specialization in historic and landscape preservation or a historical family connection to the park.

The Fort Tryon Park Trust raises approximately \$250,000 annually in private funds for targeted park improvements, diverse public programming, and for cultivating long-term park stewardship and volunteerism.

The Heather Garden was the Fort Tryon Park Trust's initial focus of restoration. Supplemental staffing, horticultural materials and tree, soil and garden design specialists were secured to enhance and revitalize this garden so that it could be sustained for future generations and used as an educational resource for horticulturalists in training. Over the past 7 years, the Trust has leveraged over \$2 million in private and public resources for ongoing improvements to the five city block long Broadway Promenade and its Alpine Garden, which includes the only grotto in a New York City public park.

High caliber public programs are just as important as physical upgrades, to enhance the public's enjoyment and use of the park. In 2012, the Trust and our collaborating partners offered close to 300 free programs including Yoga, Tai Chi, Isadora Duncan children's dance workshops; birding programs, nature scavenger hunts, children's naturalist workshops, geological history tours, nature photography, and tree walks; as well as a jazz concerts, temporary public art installations, and artist salons. These programs help activate the park and inculcate deep attachment and improved stewardship of the park by multiple user groups.

The Fort Tryon Park Trust also hosts and supports regular volunteer opportunities or "beautification days" and enlists the help of civic, corporate and community volunteers to work on clean up and renovation of the park. In 2012, the park was supported by over 3,300 volunteer hours comprised of invasive removal, lawn restoration, drain clearing, bag piping, data entry, poison ivy mapping, fitness instruction, event staffing, newsletter articles, historical research, photography and more. Since 2006, over 25,000 volunteer hours have enhanced the Broadway side of Fort Tryon Park and resulted in the planting of over 40,000 plants, trees and shrubs.

Thank you Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the Committee for the opportunity to speak about the work of the Fort Tryon Park Trust in preserving the open space treasure of Fort Tryon Park. By working alongside NYC Parks in engaging community and regional partners in our restoration and revitalization efforts, we not only demonstrate investment in our parks, but gain stewards to help us sustain those improvements.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.

Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee. I am John Herrold and I am the Parks Department's administrator for Riverside Park in Manhattan. I also serve as president of the Riverside Park Conservancy, and I thank you for the opportunity to come before you to talk about the role the Conservancy plays in Riverside Park and beyond.

As the Riverside Park administrator, I also oversee West Harlem Piers Park, Riverside Park South, and the southern half of Fort Washington Park, in all some 400 acres running along the Hudson River for six miles, from 59th Street to 181st Street. It is a regional park whose waterfront greenway, historic monuments, playgrounds, playing fields, and programs draw people from around the city and across the region. And for people living on the western side of Manhattan, from the edge of Chelsea to the Upper West Side, to Harlem, Hamilton Heights, and Washington Heights, it is their much-loved back yard.

As the administrator, I can assure you that these parks would not serve these millions of New Yorkers as they do today without the tremendous support of the Riverside Park Conservancy.

In the wake of New York City's financial struggle during the 1970's, Riverside Park was neglected and had deteriorated badly. Because of the park's condition, it was little used by the community, and misuse proliferated.

In 1986, a group of concerned neighbors formed Riverside Park Fund, now known as Riverside Park Conservancy, to bring the community back into the park, raise awareness of the park's lost grandeur, and advocate for greater public resources to restore and maintain the park. One way they did this was by establishing what I believe is today the largest volunteer program in any city park. Each year the Riverside Park Conservancy marshals more than 40,000 hours of volunteer effort in projects of all sorts to restore and maintain the park's landscapes, playgrounds, ballfields, tennis courts, and dog runs, just to name a few.

More than half of this effort comes from community members who use the park every day and who have committed themselves to caring for a specific park location. They garden, prep baseball fields, clean and monitor dog runs, bring children's programs to playgrounds, maintain tennis courts, and so much more. These regulars are the lifeblood that gives Riverside Park a palpable sense community. Some of them even come out to shovel snow from the park's dozens of staircases.

The remaining volunteer effort comes from school groups, churches, synagogues, and corporate teams who come in large numbers to tackle large projects, such as clearing and replanting a hillside, or to clean up after a hurricane.

All that community involvement, sustained now for nearly 30 years, has made immeasurable improvements to Riverside Park that have helped make it – and continue to make it – the jewel that today serves so many. If you remember the bad old days, you know the turnaround is priceless.

The Conservancy's financial support is invaluable to our efforts to restore and maintain the park. The Conservancy pays for contractors to plant, prune, and inoculate trees. It hires plumbers and electricians to keep fountains working. It buys vehicles and other equipment that it donates to the City for use in the care of the park. This support assists our hard working City-funded staff to maintain and improve the park.

The Conservancy employs a team of full time gardeners, assigned to specific zones within the park, from 153rd Street to 72nd Street, who can provide their landscapes with consistent, focused horticultural care that the park's one City-funded gardener could never provide.

These 'zone gardeners' also support the park's volunteers, providing tools, materials, and guidance to make sure the community members who come out to help can make an even greater impact.

Other full time Riverside Park Conservancy staff make sure the park's ballfields are groomed, cleaned and maintained, so that the children and adults who come from all across the city have safe, inviting, facilities to play on.

These key services provided by the Riverside Park Conservancy make all the difference in what we on the City side are able to do through this partnership.

Funding for this work comes from all across the communities served by the park, from its users. Roughly 20% of the Conservancy's income last year came in donations of \$100 or less from more than 3,500 people (more than half its donor base), reflecting the breadth and depth of the Riverside Park Conservancy's grassroots support.

Lastly, the Riverside Park Conservancy sponsors dozens of free music, art, and recreational programs throughout the year, from one end of the park to the other, serving children, teens, young adults, older adults, and families. These programs benefit thousands of people from across the city and provide yet more ways to enjoy our parks and the great outdoors.

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before this committee.



**New York City Council Parks & Recreation Committee
Oversight Hearing on Public-Private Partnerships
September 17, 2013**

I'm Holly Leicht, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks, an independent research-based organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods. Thank you for hosting today's hearing to discuss the much-debated topic of conservancies.

Despite their significant role in some of the city's most utilized parks, conservancies – a term I'll use generically to apply to non-profit organizations with varying operating agreements with the Parks Department – have only been around since the mid-1980s. Most began as grassroots efforts aimed at improving abysmal conditions in parks resulting from the City's fiscal crisis of the '70s. Today, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteer groups dedicated to New York's parks, but fewer than 30 that have formal legal agreements with the City.

Even those organizations with legal agreements have differing roles. Most fundraise and operate programs, some provide park maintenance, and several undertake capital projects with oversight by the Parks Department. The work they do, and particularly the private funds they raise, allows the department to spread its public budget more broadly across the parks system as a whole. For this reason, these organizations benefit all New York City parks, not just those in which they operate.

Some critics argue that conservancies remove control of parks from the Parks Department, encouraging privatization of these public assets, and breed inequity among parks. Let me address these in turn.

Conservancies have a dual reporting structure for maximum oversight. In almost every case, the head of the conservancy is also the park administrator, meaning he or she reports jointly to a nonprofit board of directors that bears fiscal responsibility for its activities, *and* to the borough commissioner of the Parks Department. As nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, conservancies have to account to the IRS for every dollar they bring in and spend, and this financial information is publicly available. In addition, the Parks Department has ultimate approval over all decisions and activities of conservancies. Far from ceding control, this belt-and-suspenders approach means there are more checks and balances for these parks than for other city parks.

As for inequity, while there's no doubt that conditions vary from park to park across the five

boroughs, our research on public-private partnerships and park maintenance makes clear that singling out conservancies as the source of the problem misses the mark. Parks with conservancies are not uniformly better maintained than those without. That's in part because the majority of conservancies have modest revenues and struggle to keep their parks at a standard of care that New Yorkers rightly expect. To truly address inequitable park conditions, the Parks Department needs more full-time maintenance and enforcement staff, and it needs greater control of its capital budget so it can target funds more effectively, prioritizing those parks with the greatest need. It is by bolstering and redistributing the *public* budget for parks, not reallocating relatively small amounts of private funding, that we will equalize the standard of care across all 1,700 city parks.

All this is not to say the conservancy model is perfect. Last year, NY4P analyzed 26 legal agreements between conservancies and the Parks Department and developed the following recommendations to encourage greater consistency, transparency and accountability, while still allowing for flexibility in recognition of the diversity among these organizations:

- 1) There are now enough conservancies in existence to identify what works and what doesn't. A standard license agreement should be developed, incorporating best practices from existing agreements. This new template should be used for organizations seeking to enter into their first license agreement with DPR, as well as for organizations whose agreements are being renegotiated at the end of their terms.
- 2) All agreements should require that the DPR Commissioner and relevant borough commissioner be *ex officio* members of the organization's board of directors to ensure DPR involvement in decision-making. In addition, Community Committees such as that for Prospect Park should be required to ensure public input.
- 3) All organizations' 990 tax filings should be available in one place on the DPR website. Ideally, DPR would also require organizations to report their financial information annually in a more simplified, consistent form that would be posted on its website.
- 4) Parks maintained by private organizations should be held to the same maintenance standards as other city parks. License agreements should explicitly mandate that all parks be inspected through PIP, the department's Parks Inspection Program.

Public-private partnerships for parks are still relatively new, but we now have enough experience with them in New York City to tweak the model and encourage best practices as we move forward to renew agreements and create new conservancies. New Yorkers for Parks firmly believes that conservancies play a critical role in helping to manage our city's parks, and with increased consistency and transparency, they will be even more effective in assisting the Parks Department so that precious public resources can be weighted toward those parks most in need of them.

Crain's New York Business; September 16, 2013

Don't plunder parks conservancies' cash

Parks advocacy group argues that cannibalizing funds from parks conservancies to help other parks would be a lose-lose proposition.

By Holly Leicht

Recent large gifts to the Central Park Conservancy and Friends of the High Line have fueled a misperception that such nonprofits breed inequity in the parks system as a whole. With a City Council oversight hearing on park conservancies scheduled for Sept. 17, it's time to set the record straight.

There's no doubt that conditions vary from park to park across the five boroughs. But New Yorkers for Parks' extensive citywide research on public-private partnerships and park maintenance makes clear that singling out conservancies as the source of the problem misses the mark.

One proposal that has garnered attention calls for appropriating money from the city's most successful conservancies to bankroll a citywide fund for underserved parks. Before rushing to eradicate park inequity on the backs of a handful of conservancies, it's important to better understand these organizations.

Most conservancies in New York City have modest revenues and struggle to keep their parks at a standard of care that New Yorkers rightly expect. Redirecting a percentage of their operating budgets toward a citywide fund would result in debilitating cuts to these parks' maintenance staffs and programming.

What's more, the sum total of funds from such a tithe would not actually generate enough money to make meaningful improvements in other parks.

This isn't to say successful conservancies have no part to play in helping underserved parks. A more appropriate role would be sharing their expertise and staff with other parks, as the Central Park Conservancy does now under its contract.

But parks inequity can't be solved by the private sector alone. If the next mayor is serious about serving the entire park system equitably, he must focus first on how public resources are allocated across the city's 1,700 parks. An adequately funded, full-time maintenance and enforcement staff for every park is essential, and capital spending should target those parks most in need.

City Hall should continue to support the efforts of conservancies across the city while requiring transparency and accountability to ensure that private funds augment public dollars rather than displace them.

It's great news that New York's philanthropic community views parks—and the public realm in general—as a worthy cultural cause. Exploring ways to bring private funds into the city's neediest parks is a noble endeavor. But the goal should be to broaden parks' overall donor base, not cannibalize contributions to existing conservancies and potentially chill future gifts to them.

Diverting donations would cripple the very conservancies that have transformed some of the world's most heavily used parks from dust bowls to gems, without actually solving the problem of disparate park conditions.

Holly Leicht is executive director of New Yorkers for Parks, an independent research and advocacy organization.

FORT GREENE PARK CONSERVANCY
www.fortgreenepark.org

CITY COUNCIL PRESENTATION TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 17th, 2013
@ 2:00pm; 16th Floor Committee Room, 250 Broadway, Manhattan

Presentation by Caroline Purdy and Josh Madell

Dear Members of the City Council:

My name is Caroline Purdy, and this is Josh Madell, and we are members of the Fort Greene Park Conservancy. I first would like to thank you for the invitation to meet with you this afternoon. The Conservancy is pleased to present our accomplishments and goals in service to the community. We are also excited by this opportunity to meet all of you, as well as the staff and volunteers of other Parks Organizations. We're looking forward to gaining knowledge and experience that can help us grow and strengthen our own initiatives.

Fort Greene Park is the historic, recreational, and cultural nexus of North Brooklyn. The oldest park in the borough, it serves not only the immediate community, but institutions such as Brooklyn Hospital, Brooklyn Tech High School, Long Island University, and now increasingly, several large new high-rises. A fort during the American Revolutionary War, this historically significant Olmstead and Vaux park is home to the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument, a Stanford White-designed memorial on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to the monument, there is a crypt containing the remains of approximately 11,500 American patriots, who died in captivity aboard British prison ships from 1776 to 1783. Historian David McCullough, a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and recipient of the Presidential Medal of Honor, has called Fort

Greene Park, with its the monument and crypt, one of the three most important sites relating to the founding of our country.

The Conservancy was founded in 2001, when it was spun off from a Fort Greene Association committee and received its non-profit, 501 (c) 3 status in 2006. Our mission is to serve Fort Greene Park and our community through free programming, park plantings and maintenance materials, staff support, and a comprehensive advocacy effort. Currently, an all-volunteer board and pro-active members, such as Josh and I, work to achieve these goals. No other board members were able to make today's meeting because they maintain full-time jobs. This is an important point to stress, because it shows that all the efforts put forth in our organization are done so through the commitment and free time of those involved. We produce approximately two-dozen free events annually, serving over 10,000 citizens. Josh is currently the curator of these special events, and is free to answer any questions you may have about the programming, which speaks to the community and history of the park.

At 30.17 acres, Fort Greene Park is 3.5% the size of Central Park and 5.7% of Prospect Park. On the other hand, it's over 300% the size of Washington Square and almost 500% larger than Madison Square Park. All of these beautiful and well-maintained city parks have their own full-time staff to fund-raise and help the New York City Parks Department manage its day-to-day operations. The Fort Greene Park Conservancy is all-volunteer.

Over the past decade, the Conservancy has been instrumental in raising over \$7.5 million for restoration and capital projects in the Park by reaching out to City Council members, State Senators and Assemblymen, and our Borough President. In 2008, we

received a \$350,000 New York State grant to help with the refurbishment of the Martyrs Monument. We will add a \$300,000 Federal grant award to the \$2.55 million allocated for the comprehensive redesign of the Willoughby Street Entrance. Our most recent improvement occurred this spring when the six tennis courts, which are used by parkgoers throughout the borough—from Cobble Hill to Greenpoint—were resurfaced with privately raised funds. The Conservancy helped a fledgling group, the Fort Greene Tennis Association with this endeavor. A few of the courts had severe problems that the Conservancy viewed as a public safety concern, so we helped the Tennis Association obtain a permit from Parks to bring in an approved private contractor.

Now, our annual operating budget is only \$150,000; a paltry sum compared to other parks organizations. Because of this, we currently are seeking independent benefactors, local merchants, small businesses, and corporate sponsorships for support in such matters as special events, maintaining the garden areas, supplementing parks staff salaries, and raising funds for large-scale park renovations. These renovations would include, but are not limited to: repairing the paths, restoring the lawns, replacing old benches with original Vaux and Olmstead replicas, and creating a long-term solution to the ongoing irrigation problems facing the park.

Making matters complicated these days is that since the beginning of this year, the park has been without a Parks Director or a dedicated Parks employee whose job it is to manage the Parks Job program trainees, supervise lawn maintenance, litter, and trash pick-up. This absence has resulted in miscommunication and an inability for the Conservancy to provide services we've had in the past. We also have not been informed as to why the \$2.55 million dollars allocated for the renovation of the Willoughby Street

entrance has not been put to use. The renovation was last scheduled for the Fall of 2012, but that date has since come and gone.

If you have any questions or suggestions—specifically if you know of businesses interested in sponsorship—please contact me by the phone or email listed on the attached card. Thank you so much for your time.



Joan Byron

Director of Policy, Pratt Center for Community Development; Board Member, Bronx River Alliance

Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation

Oversight Hearing: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks

September 17, 2013

Good afternoon, Chair Mark-Viverito and committee members. Thank you for allowing me to testify. I'm speaking as Policy Director of the Pratt Center for Community Development, where my colleagues and I are supporting the Fairness Coalition of Queens in their struggle to prevent the further privatization of Flushing Meadows Corona Park, and to reverse the longstanding neglect of a precious resource that has come to epitomize the "rich parks/poor parks" narrative of the past decade.

I also speak as a proud board member of the Bronx River Alliance, an organization that demonstrates the strengths and limitations of public private partnerships, especially in low-income communities.

Being a nonprofit gives the Bronx River Alliance agility and autonomy; being a public private partnership enables us to bring community voice to decisions about how the Bronx River Greenway is planned, built, and managed.

Here are some things that being a public private partnership has enabled us to do:

- We are leading the ecological restoration and management of New York City's only true river;
- We can keep the heat on City, State, and Federal agencies on to finish the Greenway;
- We have piloted green infrastructure approaches to stormwater management that have now become mainstream;
- We employ a conservation crew recruited from the community, trained and highly skilled in restoration and management of natural resources

Even modest conservancies can do things government cannot. What we can't do, is fill the gap left by shrinking **public** support for parks. As Linda Cox testified, only 10 to 15% of the Bronx River Alliance's funding comes from individual donors. As hard as we work to build that base of support, we're in a community with many needs, with limited resources, and in which our community-based partners – groups like The Point, Rocking the Boat, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice – also struggle to support their own missions.

In the Bronx, as in many other parts of New York City, it would be absurd to expect that private charity can substitute for public funding. The disparity in the quality of parks, streets, and other public spaces reflects the disparity in incomes that has deepened so dramatically in the past twelve years.

Conservancies are not the cause of that underlying inequality, but they certainly reflect and amplify it.

Every summer, the grass in Concrete Plant Park in the Bronx dries up and dies, because our budget didn't include sprinklers. Sitting down on that grass is like sitting on brillo. Meanwhile, the plantings in parks downtown look like they get combed out and styled every night. Parks in Manhattan have lunchtime juggling classes, while Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens has 14 full time staff juggling the maintenance of over 900 acres of parkland. And our mayor argued for privatizing even more of that park, because "there's just no money to fix it." Do we really believe that only parks able to attract private money – whatever the terms – deserve the investments they need to recover and thrive?

New York is the only global city that relies to the extent we do on conservancies to fund and manage our parks. That model has enabled us to build new parks and glamorize old ones, but it's also left many

neighborhoods behind. Here are some ways we can make our system more fair and more transparent – building on the platform drafted by New Yorkers for Parks:

- Account for and make public the actual costs of maintaining and operating every park
- Make all partnership agreements transparent – and consider renegotiating terms of the public match for private funding, which now results in the regressive distribution of public money to some of the richest parks
- Baseline park maintenance and operating budgets at a level that ensures good maintenance and services. From 2008 to 2012, Parks' operating budget sustained cumulative cuts of \$64.4 million. The current year's budget begins at last to reverse that trend by restoring over \$28 million. We call on the Council to take the lead in the next step – to recognize that operating our parks is an essential public service, and remove questions of their funding from the annual budget battle.

Parks' current funding still falls about \$100 million per year short of what we would need to maintain all of our parks in good condition. That's too much to expect from philanthropy – but it's not an unreasonable demand to make on ourselves as taxpayers, whether we allocate the money from general revenue, or create a new, dedicated funding stream, perhaps from a 25-cent surcharge on professional sports tickets.

Tithing the big rich conservancies won't bring in enough money to maintain all the poor parks. All the conservancies together – from the largest to the smallest - raise about \$160 million / year. So a 10% tithe on the best-funded groups would bring in less than \$16 million. Spreading that amount across the whole city would do little to address the maintenance deficits in our most neglected parks. But what a citywide fund of that size could do, is support new and growing organizations, and enable them to recruit grassroots leaders to give their communities voice.

I believe that at least that amount could be raised from the donors who now support our best-funded parks – if the City steps up to provide the level of funding all of our parks need to sustain them.

For further information contact: Joan Byron jbyron@prattcenter.net, 718-636-3468

For Joan Byron's research on Global Cities, Equity in the Public Realm, supported by the Urban and Regional Policy Program of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, see:
<http://www.gmfus.org/archives/global-cities-inequality-and-the-public-realm/>

NOTE: This testimony was prepared by the Pratt Center for Community Development. It does not necessarily reflect the official position of Pratt Institute.



P.O. Box 6259, 32-01 Vernon Boulevard
Long Island City, NY 11106 USA

Tel 718 956 1819 Fax 718 626 1533
www.socratessculpturepark.org

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK

NYC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PARKS & RECREATION "The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks"

SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK TESTIMONY

September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee, I am Katie Denny, Director of Development and Communications for Socrates Sculpture Park. Thank you for allowing me to come before you to talk about our organization.

Socrates Sculpture Park is a 4.5-acre waterfront park located in an industrial area of Long Island City. The park was an abandoned riverside landfill and illegal dumpsite until 1986, when a coalition of artists and community members, under the leadership of Mark di Suvero, transformed it into an open studio and exhibition space for artists and a neighborhood park for local residents. Socrates Sculpture Park became a 501c3 non-profit organization in 1992, and in 1993 the parkland went under the jurisdiction of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation; we currently have a licensing agreement with the agency. As a nonprofit, Socrates has an annual operating budget of approximately \$1M, which supports the maintenance, administration and programming of the park.

Socrates Sculpture Park has been recognized* as an economic driver in community, which includes three of the largest public housing projects in the US – Astoria, Queensbridge and Ravenswood Houses, by creating a cultural hub, supporting local businesses through our programming, and providing jobs with our Community Works Initiative, which employs residents of Astoria Houses as grounds crew and horticulturalists.

The park is open every day from 8:30am till dusk. Entrance to the park and all of our programs are free of charge. In its twenty-seven year history, Socrates has hosted over 1,000 artists, has presented more than 80 exhibitions, and currently attracts approximately 90,000 visitors on an annual basis. While known internationally for its renowned exhibitions and annual artist residency program, it is perhaps better known in the Queens community as a vital New York City park, offering a wide variety of public programs.

In fact, we fill over 200 days a year with free public programming. Our Education Program offers sculpture and art-making workshops six days a week from May through August, serving 8,000 local children during a single summer season. We also organize annual family-friendly festivals and seasonal events, averaging about 1,200 attendees. Our Healthy Living Program was created to serve the local community with recreation and local produce, and has grown to include five months of a weekly Greenmarket, free yoga and tai chi classes every Saturday and Sunday, and free kayaking and canoeing from the park's beach at Halletts Cove.

One of the park's most popular programs is our Outdoor Cinema festival, which celebrated its 15th anniversary this year with the support of Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer. And celebrates the cultural diversity of Queens through film, music, dance and food. Despite a rainy summer, more than 7,500 people attended this year's festival.

Socrates Sculpture Park is committed philosophically and practically to reaching the broadest spectrum of the public possible by offering access and all programs free of charge. We continue to be committed to serving the cultural and educational needs of our Queens community, and for many, the sculpture park provides a fundamental and primary art experience.

###

** In 2007, Socrates was honored by the Long Island City Business Development Corporation for its contribution to economic growth in Long Island City. In the same year, Socrates was also recognized for its exemplary community service, with a New York State Assembly Citation presented by Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan. In 2004, the New York City Department of Small Business Services presented Socrates with a Neighborhood Development Award for Outstanding Achievement in Community Development. In 2003, Socrates was selected to receive the "Downstate Organization Award for Advancing Cultural Development in New York State" by the Alliance of New York State Arts Organizations.*



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.
September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee. I am Janice Melnick, the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Administrator for the NYC Parks Department. Thank you for allowing me to come before you to talk about our park.

Flushing Meadows Corona Park is an 897-acre park that is the flagship park of Queens and attracts over 7 million visitors each year. While many outside of the local community think of Flushing Meadows Corona Park as home to the just recently completed US Open or as home to the New York Mets, the park has much more to offer. We are also home to the Queens Zoo, Queens Theater, The NY Hall of Science, the only amusement park in Queens including an historic carousel, and the Playground for All Children - the first playground in NY designed for differently abled children to play together. FMCP also boasts 7 playgrounds, 9 soccer fields, 7 baseball/softball fields, 3 cricket fields, 10 volleyball courts, an indoor pool and ice rink, a Recreation Center, a model airplane field, 2 lakes, a boathouse, natural trails, and of course the world famous Unisphere. We get thousands of visitors each week who come to the park to picnic, barbecue, play sports, and just have a great time.

That extensive use, however, does take its toll and we, the Parks Department, are tasked with keeping the park safe and clean for all to enjoy. This is not always easy. I like to think of FMCP as a utilitarian park. If we have a patch of grass, someone is using it - whether to play soccer or increasingly volleyball - or to have a family picnic. The weekends are particularly busy. While we do have full-time staff to cut the grass, pick up the garbage, and clean the bathrooms, there is a lot more we would like to do.

A conservancy, or alliance, can help raise funds to help augment the Parks Department staff. As most of you know, there has been a lot of discussion about establishing an alliance in FMCP as a result of the USTA and Willet's Point expansions. In fact, we attended meetings with 6 different community boards in Queens that are in close proximity to the park. Every one of the those community boards, in addition to many interested park patrons, and Council Member Julissa Ferreras all strongly supported the idea of establishing a new Alliance for FMCP. In fact, 5 of those community boards as well as Council Member Ferreras listed it as a requirement for their support of any expansion. We believe the community gave us a mandate to create an alliance, and we are currently in the process of doing just that.

The mission of the FMCP Alliance would be to support and augment Parks' operations and plans for Flushing Meadows Corona Park, in partnership with the City of New York, through advocacy, fundraising, and programming and would be the principal catalyst for the park's enhancement and the convener of supporters and volunteers. While we have a commitment from the USTA for annual funding, our goal would be to raise at least 1/3 of our total budget from sources other than our principal funders. With raised funds, we would like to hire year-round Parks Enforcement Patrol Officers to assist with the many enforcement challenges we have in the park, including illegal vendors. We would also like to hire seasonal staff, both maintenance and recreation, to help us better maintain the park keeping it clean for all to enjoy and to add more free programming for the public.

In short, a public/private partnership will help us to raise funds but more importantly, will serve as an organization that can advocate for the park and assist the public in becoming stewards of this great park. As we approach the 75th and 50th Anniversaries of the two Worlds Fairs held in FMCP, I believe this is the perfect time to establish the Alliance and fully support the work of the many public/private partnerships that help us care for our 29,000 acres of parkland throughout the city.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.

September 17, 2013

Good Afternoon, Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee.

My name is Marianne Anderson and I am the Administrator of Pelham Bay Park and Orchard Beach in the Bronx. At 2,772 acres, Pelham Bay Park is the largest park in New York City, and Orchard Beach is the only public beach in the Bronx and it serves over 1 million people each summer.

I have worked for the Parks Department for 28 years; much of it spent working for the Administrator of Van Cortlandt and Pelham Bay Parks. I have served as the Pelham Bay Park Administrator since 2008.

Pelham Bay Park has a very active "Friends of" group that was established in 1992 when a group of local volunteers banded together to clean-up after a damaging nor'easter. Over the course of the next two decades, the Pelham Bay Park Administrator worked with the friends group to help them to become officially recognized. They established a steering committee and board, which organizes outreach to the community, advocates for the needs of the park and fundraises to help achieve their goals.

At their core, the Friends of Pelham Bay Park have never lost their hands-on, can-do attitude for the park. They work in the park's woods, meadows and marshes at least ten times a year by planting, removing invasive vines, building bog bridges, and cleaning the shoreline. The Friends of Pelham Bay Park support and co-sponsor special events like our annual Earth Day event, the Bronx Native American Festival and a Halloween event for local special needs children. They have hosted or contributed to volunteer trainings, nature workshops, lectures, exhibitions, and they contribute to and maintain our Pelham Bay Park website.

The Friends help me as a Park Administrator bring more resources and more attention to Pelham Bay Park. We work together to promote the park, encourage positive use and stewardship, and protect and preserve the park's natural areas.

Together we have accomplished many projects. We work with our local elected officials to advocate for capital funds for Pelham Bay Park. Over the years, this has enabled NYC Parks to restore the Bronx Victory Memorial Column and American Boy statue. We have worked together to see that portions of the parks' greenway and bridle path were reconstructed. In partnership, we established the parks' dog run, installed and provided children's programming for a Sensory Garden for special needs children, and raised funds to purchase the City's first beach wheelchairs at Orchard Beach. Our current projects include establishing an accessible pond walk at the Playground for All Children and purchasing some outdoor fitness equipment.

At Pelham, we are fortunate to have many community, recreation, and environmental groups who actively participate in and support the park in numerous ways. But it is the Friends of Pelham Bay Park, working in partnership with Parks, which provides the focal point for all our efforts, allowing us to address needs and concerns with one voice.

This fall, I invite you to come up to Pelham Bay Park. Plant a tree, meet the Friends, and see why we work so hard to make the City's largest greenspace the best it can be.

Thank you.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.
September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee, I am Steven Cain, Park Administrator for the Greenbelt, as well as Executive Director for the Greenbelt Conservancy. Thank you for allowing me to come before you to talk about our organization and the role we play in the Greenbelt on Staten Island.

The Greenbelt is a city park comprised of nearly 3,000 acres of pristine forests and traditional parks. The Greenbelt is home to the Carousel for All Children in Willowbrook Park, the state of the art Greenbelt Nature Center, 35-miles of hiking trails, and a very active and child-centered environmental education center in High Rock Park. Greenbelt programs and facilities attract over 500,000 visitors annually from Staten Island, and across the five Boroughs.

In contemplating the value and efficacy of the Greenbelt Conservancy it is important to revisit our beginnings. Today's Greenbelt is a public resource that in the 1960's was rescued from development by a small but dedicated group of conservation-minded individuals. They were men and women who were not threatened by voids on a map, or unpaved paths or blissful silence, but rather who appreciated the value of untrammelled open space as a legacy for future generations. These individuals were motivated not by money or acclaim but only by standing for the good and the right. They are the forerunners of the Greenbelt Conservancy. Our current board members share their deep appreciation for and commitment to open space, environmental education and preservation.

Today, the Greenbelt Conservancy works in partnership with NYC Parks to maintain, support, and preserve the Greenbelt. Over the past two years the Conservancy has raised nearly \$215,000 from individuals and foundations to fund programming, including environmental education classes for children, and teacher training courses. Additionally, to purchase vehicles and equipment used by NYC Parks employees to maintain the Greenbelt, including two pick-up trucks. Also, the Conservancy conducts public outreach promoting the Greenbelt through a dedicated website and social media outlets, as well as cultivating awareness and support for the Greenbelt through public events and publications. The Conservancy, through its fundraising, outreach, maintenance and programming enhances the overall experience for visitors to the Greenbelt.

Thank you for your time.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks
September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the Council's Parks and recreation Committee. I am Eloise Hirsh and I am the Administrator of Freshkills Park. As an administrator of one of the City's flagship parks – albeit one that is just coming into being, I am glad to have the chance to talk about who manages our big parks and the role that private groups have in supporting them.

Because it is the Administrators who manage the parks.

Our large regional parks have a special function in the life of the city. People love their neighborhood parks, and in fact often feel quite fiercely protective about them. Neighborhood parks are core to city life and are often real definers of community life. Big regional parks, on the other hand, have broadly different uses and play a different role in the life of the City than the parks close to home. Big regional parks are where we hold events, site regional attractions, and offer major expanses of nature – ranging from tended gardens to planned landscapes to wildernesses. Our big parks are where our diversity as a city can be experienced – these are places where everyone comes. If you think about what the crowds look like in Flushing Meadows Park, in Van Cortland Park, in Central Park and Prospect Park, and in my special open house one day event at Freshkills Park, what you see is the Everybody who uses city parks. I'm sure you all know that Frederick Olmsted, the designer of not only Central Park and Prospect Park, but other parks around our City and around the country, believed that parks are the places where democracy gets expressed, because they are the places where everyone comes together on equal footing.

Regional parks belong to everyone, and yet to no one – in terms of advocacy and resource help. Administrators bring together and focus both Parks Department and external resources for the benefit of their park. The Administrator's job focuses accountability directly, so that responsibility is placed not only for the level of maintenance and operations, but also, for making sure that the constituencies, the uses, the extraordinary aspects of these varied treasures around our city, get the kind of advocacy that the particular park with its varied users and uses, needs.

And that is where the supporting organizations come in. You all know the reality as well as we – there is not enough public funding to do everything that our parks should have – and what these parks should have varies all over the city. On behalf of Freshkills Park, for example, we have recently begun a not for profit organization that will help to fund the kinds of programming that will let people come and experience the site, before the park is fully built out. Our annual open house – Sneak Peak at Freshkills Park – is supported by private contributions that allow us to offer pony rides, climbing walls and free bikes to people to come and experience the future park today. We are anxious to be able to do more educational and onsite experiences; we want to engage with research institutions around some of the scientific issues that this site presents; I'd like a jeep that wasn't 10 years old. The reality is that in these times, public funds are just not enough to make our flagship parks be all that they can be – but a focused administrator with the support of private citizens dedicated to that particular site, can make the difference.

Thank you for allowing me to the opportunity to testify before you today.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.
September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee, I am Sarah Neilson and I am the Administrator for Washington Square Park. Thank you for allowing me to come before you to talk about my role as a Park Administrator and the work of the Washington Square Park Conservancy.

I became the Administrator of Washington Square Park six months ago, coming from two years in the Parks Department's Capital division and a background in city planning and non-profits. As the Administrator, I work closely with the park staff to keep the park operations moving smoothly, and respond to community concerns, as well as to manage the events and film shoots. My goal is to provide a balance of the many different uses and constituents of the park, while maintaining its essential character as a vibrant neighborhood gathering spot.

This is an especially exciting time to come to Washington Square Park, as the long renovation process is nearly complete. The park looks better than it has ever looked, with expanded lawns and plantings, refurbished play areas and dog runs, and we'll soon move into our new park house.

In addition to my role as a Park's Administrator, I am also the Executive Director of the newly formed Washington Square Park Conservancy. In this role, I work with the park's neighbors who have come together to support the park, by bringing volunteers to the park and uniting the park's many constituents. The dual role ensures that the work of the conservancy group is closely aligned with the actual needs of the park. The Conservancy can bring together neighbors and develop a community of supporters for the park – as volunteers, as eyes on the park, and as advocates. The Parks Department will continue to manage the park and make all policy decisions related to the park.

The Conservancy goals are in line with the Parks Department's—to keep the park clean, safe and beautiful. The founders were motivated by the city's commitment to the renovations, and want to create and support a community network that sustains the park.

Thank you.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.
September 17, 2013

Good Afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

I am Portia Dyrenforth, the Administrator for Crotona Park in the Bronx. I started as an Administrator about one year ago and have found the job very satisfying. At 127.5 acres, Crotona Park is not the largest Park in the Bronx, but it is arguably one of the most heavily used, and certainly one of the most beautiful. Crotona Park is home to 20 tennis courts, 8 playgrounds, 5 ballfields, a soccer field and half dozen basketball and handball courts. Besides these more typical amenities, Crotona Park has a beautiful Robert Moses era Olympic pool and an exquisite natural rock amphitheater. There is also a 3 1/2 acre lake that attracts blue herons, red-winged blackbirds, ducks and frogs, which is a myriad of wildlife all in the middle of the very urban South Bronx. However beautiful Crotona Park is, it is made more relevant because of the visitors, which represent a diverse cross section of the city. Crotona is truly a multi-purpose park where visitors come to barbecue, play, compete, run, stroll, fish and wander. For over a hundred years it has been the South Bronx's flagship park.

The Friends of Crotona was formed over a decade ago and are at the heart of Crotona Park. I have witnessed their hard work and dedication from day one. One of the Friends of Crotona's biggest events was their Spring Celebration which attracted over 600 children and families for face painting, caricatures, spin art, clowns and a colorful concert with dancing. In the Crotona Park community, where over 20% of the population is under 9, this type of community celebration is exactly what is needed. Besides the seasonal celebrations, Friends of Crotona Park also sponsors concerts and promotes the park online with over 1,100 Facebook followers. They know what the kids want and what the park needs.

This year, with an allocation of approximately \$12,000 by Council Member Joel Rivera, the Friends of Crotona helped purchase an "arsenal of tools" including, push reel mowers, rakes, extension pruners, shovels, extension nets. With these "tools-in-hand" a mission of volunteerism has set forth in Crotona Park. Last fall there was two committed schools volunteering each week. This fall we have four more local schools signed-up to "adopt-the-park" for weekly community service. Crotona Park has become the "Go-to" park for groups like NY Cares and BuildOn since we can readily equip over 80 volunteers to help improve the park. Crotona Park has also become the fall home for the *NYPD Explorers*. This will bring approximately 30 more kids twice a week, helping us to beautify the lake perimeter, assist with regular maintenance and provide a presence in the park.

Since I became the Crotona Park Administrator, the Friends of Crotona and I have been an integral part of bringing in the helping hands of nearly 2,000 people, mostly children between the ages of eleven to eighteen to the park. This new volunteerism and friend-building for Crotona Park would not be possible without the combined efforts of Friends of Crotona, Partnerships for Parks and myself.

Over the past ten years Crotona Park has seen major capital improvements. The lake, three ballfields, tennis house have been reconstructed and a new destination amphitheater built. Currently, Crotona Park has over ten active capital projects totaling nearly \$38 million. This includes the \$23 million, Cary Leeds Center for Tennis and Learning that will be managed by the New York Junior Tennis League. The facility will be a new concession that will attract more visitors to the park as well as provide year-round free space for kids. This level of investment really demands a close level of oversight and communication with the community, elected officials and park partners.

Further, due to supporters such as the New York Junior Tennis League, Billie Jean King has visited Crotona twice this year, along with Tommy Hillfiger and former New York City Mayor David Dinkins. There were also other very popular events such as, Old Timer's Day, which had over with over 6,000 visitors, the Pride event, the Central American and Ghanian Parades. Crotona Park is the place to be in the Bronx.

With a team of great staff, the lift from regular volunteers and support from the Friends of Crotona, I have received many compliments on the state of Crotona Park since I arrived. Although we still have a way to go I am extremely honored to oversee and protect this exquisite and exciting park.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation

Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.

September 17, 2013

Good afternoon, Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee. I am Linda Cox, Bronx River Administrator for NYC Parks and also the Executive Director for the Bronx River Alliance. Thank you for inviting me to come before you to talk about the Bronx River Alliance and the role it plays in the parks that make up the Bronx River Greenway.

The Bronx River Alliance was incorporated in 2001 as a nonprofit organization to serve as a coordinated voice for the river and work in harmonious partnership to protect, improve and restore the Bronx River corridor and greenway so that they can be healthy ecological, recreational, educational and economic resources for the communities through which the river flows. The Alliance works in close partnership with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, and over 100 local businesses, community-based and regional non-profits and schools, and all levels of government to achieve these goals.

The Alliance plays a critical role in shepherding resources for the reclamation of the river and the development of new parks along its banks into a complete and continuous Bronx River Greenway. To date it has helped the Parks Department open 18 acres of new parkland and create 4 miles of newly connected paths linking parks along the river. We champion the community vision for the Bronx River Greenway, by engaging communities in planning the greenway and programming the new parks and trails that have already been completed. We also shepherd and raise critical capital funds for Greenway projects; over \$140 million has been spent or committed to date, nearly all of it public dollars from the federal, state and city level.

Furthermore, the Alliance engages hundreds of school children and educators each year in programs to use the river as an outdoor classroom. It supplies boots on the ground, through the Bronx River Conservation Crew, to clean and green the river, through hands-on restoration and debris clearing projects, all the while providing useful job training for local residents and hundreds of trainees each year. Finally, the Alliance engages communities in every aspect of our work, through volunteer events to the development of friends groups tied to particular parks.

In a typical year, the Alliance is able to raise about a million dollars to carry out that mission. Of that, corporations and individual donors each supply about 10-15%. Thirty to 45% comes in the form of government grants from federal or state sources, and foundations typically provide a similar amount.

We are working diligently to expand individual sources of funding, especially as federal sources of funding run dry and foundations turn their attention to other causes. Just this year, we launched a membership campaign and held a Canoe Challenge race to raise private donations for on the river activities. This year has been by far our most successful year in attracting individual donors, with \$53,000 raised by June 30. However, operating as we do in some of the most economically impoverished neighborhoods in the country, we find that individual donations represent only a small piece of the resources needed to carry out our mission effectively. And they are a drop in the bucket towards the cost of managing and maintaining the parks that are emerging along the Bronx River. The continued commitment of public dollars is essential to the vitality, cleanliness and safety of our parks.

By far the most critical role that the Alliance plays is harnessing the vision and energy of community leaders and residents in imagining a new future for the Bronx River and engaging them in concrete steps to make it happen. This is an irreplaceable function of great value to the City.

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you.



Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.
Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Good Afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee, my name is Ed Janoff and I am the North Brooklyn Administrator for the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Executive Director of Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn. I am here today to talk about the importance of nonprofit partner organizations to the health and vitality of City parks. In this my role I am responsible for oversight of the Parks Department's maintenance and operations resources for District 1 in Brooklyn which covers Parks located in Greenpoint and Williamsburg. I am also responsible for fundraising and project development for a nonprofit park stewardship organization in the neighborhood, and for community coordination of all projects and activities in the district's parks. I have also worked in related capacities for the Bryant Park Corporation and for the Department of Transportation Plaza Program. There are three critical important points I would like to stress today regarding why I believe park conservancies play a critical role in making New York City's parks the best they can be.

First, conservancies can augment the standard of care for parks. Leveraging volunteers and private resources, conservancies are able to contribute additional cleaning and maintenance services, thus providing reinforcements to give a shot in the arm to for some of the heaviest-used parks in the city where intense maintenance may be needed to keep up with onslaughts of activity from morning hours to night. And because of their local management presence, dedicated staff, and mission-driven approach, many conservancies are able to provide additional landscape amenities such as movable tables and chairs, rotating seasonal flower displays, decorative lighting, and gravel paving which beautify the public realm.

Second, conservancies cost the City nothing. The City benefits from the charitable and operational revenue generation of conservancies in the form of improvements to public assets, improvements which the entire park-going public of New York can enjoy at no additional cost to taxpayers. So conservancies make financial sense.

Third, and I believe most important, conservancies provide a proven critical ingredient to the success of urban parks, and that is local engagement. Conservancies develop further the Parks Department's efforts to engender active public participation in neighborhood parks from local residents, businesses and organizations including fostering volunteerism, providing "eyes on the park", and cultivating issue-based constituencies. Conservancies reflect the flavor of their communities and are attentive and responsive to local concerns. The local attention and enhanced services and amenities conservancies provide can be the difference between a park that is simply serviceable and one that flourishes.

I am very encouraged to see the expansion of park conservancies across the City in the past decades, and the Parks Department's commitment to propagating them in areas of need through programs in conjunction with City Parks Foundation and New York Restoration Project. Whereas not long ago perhaps just a few parks in benefitted from the work of conservancies, they can now be seen operating from Riverdale to the Rockaways, from community gardens to large parks, sharing resources and enhancing public assets, and this bodes well for the ongoing health of our city's parks and our communities.

I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today.

Washington Square Park Conservancy
PO BOX 1624 Cooper Station
New York, NY 10276

Testimony before the City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.
September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee, I am Veronica Bulgari and I am a founding board member of the Washington Square Park Conservancy. Thank you for allowing me to come before you to talk about our group.

During the course of the Washington Square Park renovation, we began discussing the formation of a neighborhood group to support the Park. We recognized the wonderful investment that the City of New York was making in our community, and we wanted to support these efforts and keep the park clean, safe and beautiful.

We spent a lot of time looking at how different friends-of groups around the city are structured, and we found that there are a broad variety of models, and a broad assortment of names, which you will see today. The model that we chose was a modestly sized neighborhood organization that will motivate volunteers and raise funds to supplement the maintenance and security budget of the Parks Department.

We reached out to the Parks Department and they encouraged us to proceed. We met with the Community Board, local elected officials and neighborhood organizations. We put a lot of effort into figuring out what worked best for our community, and we are pleased with the result. Our organization will modestly supplement the park; the Parks Department will continue to operate the Park.

Our goals are to organize a team of volunteer gardeners, provide safe and healthy activities for the diverse users of the Park, and supporting the Parks Department's efforts to keep the park clean and safe. As the key source of information about events, activities and other topics of interest, we will also help foster community support for Washington Square Park.

One of the great things about Washington Square Park is its ability to function both as a neighborhood park and as a world-famous destination. Washington Square Park is a small but critical park, and we want to keep it enjoyable and accessible for everyone.

THE
TRUST
for
PUBLIC
LAND



New York Office
666 Broadway
Ninth Floor
New York, NY
10012
T. (212) 677-7171
F. (212) 353-2052
www.tpl.org

Hearing on Park Conservancies
Committee on Parks and Recreation
New York City Council
September 17, 2013

*Testimony of Peter Harnik, Director
Center for City Park Excellence, The Trust for Public Land
Washington, D.C. 20003
202-543-7552; peter.harnik@tpl.org*

Madame Chair and members of the committee, I am Peter Harnik, director of the Center for City Park Excellence at The Trust for Public Land. Based in Washington, D.C., we are the nation's go-to source for data regarding the park systems of America's large cities.

At one time, urban parks were considered to be fully the responsibility of municipal government, but times have changed thanks to three stark facts:

- Americans are increasingly tax-averse;
- Parks, as they age, become more expensive to repair; and
- Many great old cities have fewer resources.

In a nutshell, mayors and city councils everywhere find themselves unable to keep up park quality and park programming. At the same time, many urban dwellers – some of whom have personal wealth and connections – are deeply committed to having great parks, and some are generous enough to give over and above what they pay in taxes.

The park conservancy movement began more than 40 years ago in New York and Boston because of threats to Central Park and to the Public Garden. New York led the way, but in the intervening years the movement has caught on big time. My Center is aware of 56 park conservancies in places as varied as Atlanta, Houston, St. Louis, Philadelphia,

Buffalo, Chicago and Denver. New York is in the lead with 14, but this is now much more than a New York phenomenon.

In Buffalo, the Olmsted Parks Conservancy manages two-thirds of the entire city park system....In Atlanta, the Piedmont Park Conservancy has restored landscapes, reopened a public pool, and eliminated unnecessary asphalt....In Philadelphia, the Fairmount Park Conservancy works not only to beautify East and West Parks but has also led a remarkable transformation of Hunting Park in gritty North Philly....In San Diego, where Balboa Park has almost played second fiddle to the 26 museums located within, the city council supports establishing a new conservancy specifically for the park itself.

To quickly compress our findings, we believe that conservancies raise the tide for everyone in the city since they –

- allow heavily-visited destination parks to burst with beauty, horticultural health and great programming;
- provide a mechanism whereby infrastructure repairs can often be made on a quicker turnaround basis;
- enable city park departments to reprogram staffing and expenditures from the focal park toward parks that would otherwise receive less attention; and
- raise the psychological bar so that all city residents can see, expect and call for park excellence in every park in the city;

Perhaps the most important virtue of conservancies is not the money they raise, but the involvement of citizens in the lives of public parks, providing lasting advocacy and leadership, and transcending political administrations.

Many of you know that my organization has been helping the Friends of the Queensway create what hopefully will be New York's next great park. If and when that succeeds, I fully expect that it will be supported by New York's next great park conservancy.

Appendix – Selected Urban Park Conservancies

Selected Urban Park Conservancies

Baldwin Hills Conservancy	Culver City	CA
Battery Park City Parks Conservancy	New York	NY
Brackenridge Park Conservancy	San Antonio	TX
Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy	Buffalo	NY
Central Park Conservancy	New York	NY
Civic Center Park Conservancy	Denver	CO
Detroit 300 Conservancy	Detroit	MI
Detroit Riverfront Conservancy	Detroit	MI
Emerald Necklace Conservancy	Brookline	MA
Forest Park Forever	St. Louis	MO
Hermann Park Conservancy	Houston	TX
Hudson River Park Trust	New York	NY
Memorial Park Conservancy	Houston	TX
Piedmont Park Conservancy	Atlanta	GA
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy	Pittsburgh	PA
Prospect Park Alliance	Brooklyn	NY
Riverside Park Fund	New York	NY
Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy	Boston	MA
Shelby Farms Conservancy	Memphis	TN
Willow Waterhole Greenspace Conservancy	Houston	TX

New York City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation

Testimony by Emily Lloyd
Prospect Park Administrator & Prospect Park Alliance President

September 17, 2013

Good afternoon Council Member Mark-Viverito and members of the Parks Committee. My name is Emily Lloyd and I serve as both the Administrator of Prospect Park and the President of the Prospect Park Alliance. It is my pleasure to appear before you today.

Introduction

Covering 585 acres in the heart of Brooklyn, Prospect Park is more than just a neighborhood Park – it is a borough-wide facility. With its great subway service and wide array of activities, Prospect Park is a magnet for all of Brooklyn's diverse and ever-changing population. According to the most recent census:

- of the roughly 1.1 million people who live in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the Park 35% are African-American or Caribbean-American, 35% are white, 20% are Latino and 10% are Asian;
- the percentage of residents in these communities who are first-generation immigrants (defined by the census as “foreign born”) ranges from 16.4% in Community District 6, including Park Slope and Red Hook, to nearly 50% in District 14, including Flatbush and Midwood;
- families eligible for low-income support ranges from 5% to 30%

Fredrick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux designed the park to be a place of respite and relaxation, as well as a place for people to come together to participate in various types of activities. They envisioned Prospect Park as a place where people would come to be renewed by the 90-acre Long Meadow, 250-acres of Woodlands, or 60-acre Lake. Today, Prospect Park has over 10 million visits each year. Olmsted and Vaux envisioned families from every neighborhood in Brooklyn coming to Prospect Park; and they did from the day it opened, as they do today, to picnic, barbeque, to participate in our public education programs, to play on one or more of the hundreds of athletic teams at the Parade Grounds and Ballfields, to volunteer to help keep the Park clean, or to attend one of our regular events – like the Annual Halloween Haunted Walk and Carnival or the monthly Food Truck Rally at Grand Army Plaza.

The Prospect Park Alliance

As you may know, the Prospect Park Alliance is a not-for-profit that partners with the Parks Department and the community to foster stewardship of Prospect Park. Established in 1987, the Alliance helps to care for the natural environment, preserve the Park's historic design, provide

facilities, oversee more than 25,000 permitted events (mainly consisting of small birthday parties and picnics), and host programs and activities throughout the year for all New Yorkers.

Over the past 26 years, the Prospect Park Alliance has played a vital role in restoring the Park to its original glory. During this time, we have worked very closely with local elected officials, the Parks Department, and the surrounding communities, to identify, prioritize, design, and complete approximately 50 restoration projects over close to 120 acres of the Park and 5,100 linear feet of our watercourse. These projects include the restoration or reconstruction of:

- all 7 playgrounds in the Park
- the 1912 Prospect Park Carousel
- the Prospect Park Parade Ground
- pedestrian pathways, perimeter sidewalks, and wooded trails
- comfort stations
- Prospect Park Ravine, Binnenwater and Lullwater

At the heart of all our work for the past 26 years has been the restoration of the 250 acres of woodlands, reversing decades of soil erosion and compaction. The Alliance has replaced over 10,000 overstory and understory trees. The results are substantial and Prospect Park's woodlands once again offer visitors a place to connect with the natural environment and Prospect Park is now again a major anchor of the northeast bird migration.

In December, the Alliance will complete Lakeside, encompassing 26 acres in Prospect Park. Lakeside will replace a 50-year old winter only skating rink with a year-round recreational facility, including 2 new skating rinks, which will be used for ice-skating in the winter and roller-skating and water play in the summer. In addition, Lakeside restores the original Olmsted and Vaux design for the Prospect Park Lake and its shoreline, adds new acres of parkland, and improves access to the rink area to be safer and more beautiful. Despite the fact that the project includes two ice skating rinks, we expect to receive Gold LEED Certification.

In addition, to our restoration work, the Alliance actively engages the community to become stewards and advocates of the Park through our volunteer program, education and youth program, Community Committee, and membership.

Volunteer Program

The Alliance supports and maintains a very active volunteer program. Like many not-for-profits, volunteers play a huge role. At Prospect Park, they assist with a variety of landscaping and maintenance projects including raking, gardening, woodland restoration, sweeping, painting, and litter removal. This past year, approximately 4,000 volunteers gave over 27,000 hours in the Park working primarily with our Landscape Management and Maintenance & Operations departments. Their work contributed the equivalent of approximately 15 full time staff members.

Our volunteers are always important, and become a truly critical part of our team when we must deal with a natural disaster, like Hurricane Sandy. As you know, Hurricane Sandy caused major damage throughout Prospect Park – hundreds of trees down, countless branches hanging, many pedestrian pathways obstructed – and the Park had to be closed to the public. With our dedicated staff and robust volunteer program, we were able to manage 500 volunteers from the community to help clean

up. Clearing 20 acres of our most heavily used pathways and other areas in the Park and bagging over 2500 bags of storm-related debris, our volunteers allowed us to reopen the Park just 5 days after the storm, much sooner than we originally anticipated.

Education & Youth Programs

Directly serving over 70,000 people a year, the Alliance's environmental education programs in Prospect Park provide active learning adventures that teach children about the natural world, helping to support the Alliance's mission to encourage appreciation and stewardship of the Park not just today, but into the future. Using the Park itself as an outdoor classroom for hands-on learning, we have created a unique opportunity for children to learn about the value of our parks and become the next generation of park stewards.

Our free public programs include:

- Prospect Park Audubon Programs – this year, the Alliance introduced “Pop-Up Audubon,” a new interactive program for children to directly engage with nature through outdoor learning adventures. Using Prospect Park's greatest resource – the Park itself – “Pop-Up Audubon” is located at a different site around the Park each month, featuring educational programming about a different park ecosystem.
- Lefferts Historic House – part of the Historic House Trust, Lefferts interprets the history of Brooklyn's environment from pre-Colonial times until the present, using its working garden, historic artifacts, and documents, as well as period rooms and exhibits.

In addition, for more than 10 years, the Alliance has developed successful youth program focused on park stewardship.

- Made up of approximately 15 high school students, the Woodlands Youth Crew is a hands-on environmental restoration crew that works closely with the Park's Natural Resources Crew to actively participate in our woodlands restoration. Working full-time during the summer and on weekends during the school year, youth crew members specifically work to give new life to some of the Park's most damaged areas by countering erosion, removing invasive vegetation, and planting native plants.
- In addition, the Alliance works with a team of 6 Park Youth Representatives each year leading programs and tours for visitors and summer camp groups. Working primarily with the Audubon Programming and at Lefferts Historic House, Park Youth Reps receive valuable leadership development and a keen understanding of the value of a public park in an urban environment. Park Youth Representatives work full-time during the summer and on weekends during the school year.

Prospect Park Community Committee

The Alliance would not be able to accomplish everything it has without the support of the surrounding community. Over the past 20 years, we have cultivated interest and involvement through the creation and commitment of the Prospect Park Community Committee (*ComCom*). The

ComCom was specifically created to provide an ongoing dialogue with the community around problems, management initiatives, and capital plans. The ComCom takes on an active advisory and advocacy role, representing the interests of Park users and the community while making recommendations for the function and future of Prospect Park. Representatives of more than 30 local organizations, as well as all of the elected officials (city, state, and federal) and community boards surrounding the Park are invited to monthly meetings to discuss relevant issues of Prospect Park management (e.g., dog rules, garbage and recycling policies, park drive hours open to cars), review all capital plans and programs, and have regular discussions with other city agencies – such as the Department of Transportation.

Membership

The Alliance also serves as a constant source of public information. With close to 12,000 recipients of our monthly electronic newsletter, 35,000 fans on Facebook, and 14,000 followers on Twitter, we regularly communicate events, programs and important advisories to the surrounding communities. In addition, the Alliance has close to 5,000 members from neighborhoods in Brooklyn as well as the other Boroughs and outside the City. Unlike cultural institutions around the City that can offer free admission as an inducement to its members, the Alliance attracts members primarily by offering them an opportunity play a vital role in the Park's well-being – their support allows the Alliance to help maintain ballfields and playgrounds, restore historical structures and landscapes, protect wildlife habitats, and provide targeted summer clean-ups in our enormously popular picnic and barbecue areas.

Conclusion

I believe that conservancies play a critical role in focusing the oversight, advocacy and care of park users in practical and effective ways. I think the Prospect Park Alliance has been successful in doing that for the communities around the park and for all the residents of Brooklyn. I think it has been successful because it has been shaped by the people who use the Park, evolving over the years and allowing them to celebrate and contribute to the stewardship of their shared space in a wide variety of ways. Having said that, I think that there is probably no single formula that will work for all parks, and I hope that this Committee will appreciate the value of the varied forms conservancies take.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify today.



Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy Inc.
Post Office Box 750303, Flushing NY 11375
Phone (718) 544-7436 – Cel (646) 641-1928

September 17, 2013

Testimony: on The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.

Good afternoon. I would like to thank the Committee on Parks and Recreation members for having this hearing on the Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks.

My name is Harbachan Singh, I am on The Board of Directors of The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy (FMCP) and am here to testify on behalf of Jean Silva, President of the Conservancy regarding the above-referred topic.

Conservancies, also known as land trusts, are community-based, nonprofit organizations dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of natural and working lands for the public good.

Conservancies are positioned to act swiftly and professionally to help landowners and communities protect the places important to us all—open spaces that define our sense of place, connect us to the natural world, and provide real services such as water quality protection, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, and sources of food and timber.

The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy believes that a successful conservancy is made up of community leader groups such as civic groups, community boards, "the culturals" in the park, elected officials as well as appointed members.

All these groups have a vested interest in the Park and the conservancy's success. With these varied, vested interest groups we can better establish funding sources. Also, these groups provide an important communication vehicle to get the word out to their respective communities about fund raising, park events, volunteerism, and business opportunities.

While achieving this vision for the conservancy may be difficult, we know that by working together and respecting each others' ideas we can accomplish anything.

The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy looks forward to working with you.

Jean C. Silva

Jean C. Silva, President
FMCP Conservancy

FOR THE RECORD



QUEENS CIVIC CONGRESS, INC.

P. O. Box 670706, Flushing, NY 11367 • Tel.: 347-722-1872 Cell: 646-732-5784
www.queensciviccongress.com (Archive) • www.nycqcc.org

Queens Civic Congress

Testimony Concerning Proposed Conservancy Operators at Flushing Meadows Corona Park Richard C. Hellenbrecht, President

September 10, 2013

The Queens Civic Congress is an umbrella organization consisting of over 100 civic associations throughout the Borough. The Congress was a key sponsor of the Flushing-Meadows Corona Park Conservancy and some of our officers signed the incorporation papers of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy (FMCP-C).

While FMCP-C and QCC are completely independent organizations, we are pleased to continue to support the organization with several board members serving among its directors. The Congress is very concerned about the Park as the flagship of Queens. the Park is the one of the most significant concession revenue sources in the City. However, despite generating millions in annual revenue, the constant constraints in the City's budget have resulted in reduction after reduction of work forces assigned to the park, at the same time that other parks, represented by more established conservancies, have faired much better.

We believe the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy has been a strong advocate for the park since the Conservancy's formation in 2001. While FMCP-C does not have access to wealthy neighbors, as does Central Park and Prospect Park, FMCP-C has a continuously operating board with distinguished community members and honorary board of local civic and elected leaders. FMCP-C has a long list of accomplishments despite limited budgets during very bad economic times. We are proud that the conservancy has never had a complaint of any nature against it.

The Conservancy prioritizes on the environment, education, recreation and improving the Park's facilities. It works closely with Boy Scouts and other local youth groups to install environmental lake shore enhancements and planting of natural vegetation. FMCP-C has worked closely with the Park's administrator and staff in developing all of its projects. To improve access throughout

the park, the Conservancy installed an informative permanent map and developed a map-guide brochure showing all the park's facilities, trails and other amenities. In conjunction with the Department of Parks and Recreation Natural Resources Group and FMCP Administrator FMCP-C installed a bird blind at Meadow Lake and another at Willow Lake. The organization sponsored numerous movies, music concerts and other entertainment for Park visitors over the years. Along with the Urban Park Rangers, the Conservancy also sponsored many canoe tours, bird watches and nature walks, particularly in the natural area at Willow Lake. These tour events were coordinated with the Audubon Society, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and numerous local groups. The organization supported TASCA by donating a chase boat and engine, which have been permanently identified for the Conservancy. TASCA uses the boat as part of its sailing and small boat safety programs aimed at training local area residents who might not otherwise have these maritime opportunities. FMCP-C also donated a "Cat" tractor to the Park, which continues to be used in the Park. These programs were accomplished with very limited funds during a declining economy and vastly reduced government grants.

Queens Civic Congress encourages the Council to seriously consider the hard work and already established organization of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy, which has the talent, organization, experience and ethics to take a much greater role in the operation of the Park. FMCP-C has a proven track record and the Queens Civic Congress would support the enlargement of the FMCP-C board and we believe with FMCP-C is capable of administering the fund established by the agreement with the U.S. Tennis Association. We urge the New York City Council to appoint the Conservancy as a major component or administrator of Alliance incorporated in the recently passed USTA expansion.

Richard C. Hellenbrecht, President
president@qccnyc.org
347-722-1872

Friends of Crotona Park

1591 Fulton Avenue
Bronx, NY 10457
917-243-7060

September 17, 2013

Friends of Crotona Park

Good Afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee. My name is Rosemary Ordonez and I am the Chairperson of the Friends of Crotona Park. Thank you for allowing me to come before you to talk about our organization and role we play in Crotona Park.

The Friends of Crotona Park is a non-profit 501(c)3 coalition of concerned residents and local organizations that works with the New York City/Parks and Recreation toward preserving and improving Crotona Park. Formed in June 1996 by volunteers, we became a non-profit in 2002. The Friends of Crotona Park mission is to work towards the revitalization of Crotona Park through programming, events, capital improvements, horticultural activities, clean-ups, fundraisers, crime prevention activities, and special projects with Parks and Recreation.

The Friends of Crotona and the Tools of War sponsors the Summer Hip-Hop concert series Co-sponsored by Councilman Joel Rivera. The concert series is a four day Summer Jam that brings deejays such as Biz Markie, Jazzy Jeff and DJ Caz to Crotona Park. Our other events include an annual Movies In the Park, Fall Festival, Holiday Lighting and Spring Festival.

The Friends of Crotona photographer is present at every event from the Central American Parade, Old Timers Day, Ghana Day Parade, to the Summerstage kids series. He manages and promotes the FOCP Facebook and twitter pages that have more than 1,200 followers.

Also in June, we hosted the Friends of Crotona Family Day. This year was the most successful with over 700 kids participating. There was face painting, caricature artists, dancing, spin art, clowns, free ices, free popcorn, free cotton candy, free give aways, in addition to education/health/and social service resource tables.

Each year Friends of Crotona Park (FOCP) participates in the It's My Park Day clean-up day. This year we held at the Bathgate Playground adjacent to the pool. We had over 55 volunteers helping clean, paint, weed and mulch the park. Most of the volunteers were junior high and high school students.

Friends of Crotona writes grants for the park, this January 2013 Friends of Crotona was awarded a CPF grant to assist with Capacity building for the park. With the funds we: Built a Message Board for Crotona Park and are Modifying the existing Map of the Park, creating postcards to promote the Friends of Crotona, purchasing Banners promoting the Friends of Crotona. We plan to 'unveil' the new message Board at the Friends of Crotona Halloween event in October.

Nearly every year, we assist the Park maintenance and operation with maintenance equipment and tools. Over the years we have helped purchase mowers, snow throwers, furniture, tools/ rakes/ nets. Last Spring we were able to successfully get an allocation of over \$12,000 (Total aprox. \$29K FY13) by CM Joel Rivera, that helped purchase. Over the years FOCP has helped acquire over \$60,000 towards maintenance of the park.

Currently the Friends of Crotona is made up of twenty members. With our capacity grant funds and with the prospect of developing a relationship with the New York Junior Tennis League - who is building the Cary Leeds Center for Tennis and Learning in the park we expect to expand and grow our operation. It is our mission to keep fulfilling and building on the conceptual plan we put together in 2001.

We work with the Crotona Park Administrator every step of the way. The Administrator assists in helping guide and advise us to make sure events are as successful as possible. Having an administrator at Crotona Park ensures that this exciting/beautiful Park gets the attention and care it deserves.

In the year we were missing an administrator there was a gap in attention we received and the park received. In addition to working with the Administrator, the friends works with the 42nd Precinct Community Affairs Officers, and the Bronx Community Planning Board #3.

The Friends of Crotona Park in collaboration with the Administrator of the park play an instrumental role in the success of the park and we look forward to obtaining additional resources to support the nature center, and to hire additional staff, and to enhance the programming the park.



Oversight Hearing – The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks
September 17, 2013 250 Broadway – Committee Room 16th Floor

Testimony of Behalf of the Lower East Side Ecology Center

Good afternoon Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council Parks Committee. My name is Christine Datz-Romero and I am the co-founder and Executive Director for the Lower East Side Ecology Center. Thank you for permitting me to come before you to talk about the wonderful work that we do.

The Lower East Side Ecology Center is a community based organization that provides community based recycling, environmental education and stewardship programs in the Lower East Side.

In 1997, the Ecology Center was able to move its compost processing operation and administrative offices to East River Park through a license agreement with Parks, which was created to mutually benefit both parties: The Ecology Center was able to continue and expand its programs, and East River Park gained a steward. In exchange for using space in the park, the Ecology Center started to recruit community residents to be stewards of the park, organized volunteer events and created environmental education programs tailored to its new home on the bank of the East River, which is part of the New York Harbor estuary.

In 2012, more than 2,400 youth and adults participated in 122 workshops that we offered in East River Park and we organized numerous volunteer events in the Park, where a total of 933 volunteers contributed over 3,270 hours to the maintenance of the Park.

The relationship between an organization such as the Ecology Center and Parks Department clearly benefits the community and makes for more vibrant parks. East River Park has undergone a major capital renovation project, the entire esplanade had to be rebuilt, and many more planting beds were established by this renovation which makes community engagement even more crucial.

Partnerships between Parks and community based organizations are probably as diverse as our city is: some groups raise funding, others do advocacy for parks and open space, others such as ours contribute educational programming, 'sweat equity' and a sense of ownership in the community for the Park, but the local Park where such a partnership is happening is always enriched and more vibrant and we would like to stress the importance of such relationships to strengthen our public parks.

Good afternoon. I'm Dena Libner, representing the Central Park Conservancy. Like all conservancies, the Central Park Conservancy was founded by citizens who shared a vision of what their local park could – and should – be. Based on that vision – grassy lawns instead of dust bowls, ducks floating in ponds instead of trash, graffiti removed and benches repaired quickly – we introduced management strategies to make it a reality.

When it became clear that the Conservancy's management techniques worked, we started to attract donors who shared our vision and trusted our ability to fulfill it.

But a conservancy's ability to succeed is not defined by the amount of funding it receives. Funding gives any charity flexibility and the ability to tackle increasingly complex problems, but it doesn't guarantee any of the necessary elements of a conservancy's success: a foundation in volunteerism, the commitment of its employees; the power of a shared vision; and technical expertise.

The Conservancy's original vision was of Park restoration, maintenance, and enhancement. Recently, it has expanded to include working with other parks and friends groups throughout the city and world to support the spirit of leadership and volunteerism; as a result, our impact extends well beyond Central Park's perimeter.

We help to restore and maintain more than a dozen parks in Manhattan, including the historic Harlem parks. Earlier this year, we established a training program for Parks Department employees; by 2014, the Conservancy will have trained more than 40 Parks Department staff members from all five boroughs in turf care. Next year, we expect to dedicate more than 20,000 consultation and labor hours to local parks in all five boroughs.

The Department of Parks & Recreation has made incredible strides in the quality and maintenance of New York City parks. This has been accomplished, in part, as a result of their willingness to leverage all the resources at their disposal – one of them being the institutional expertise of conservancies. We believe that the Conservancy model can be a source of inspiration for every New Yorker who wants to be a part of making their local park better.

We look forward to continue working closely with the Parks Department to apply our model of volunteerism to all public parks, as well as more than 100 local groups who have asked for our advice in taking a leadership role in the future of their own neighborhood park.



PUBLIC COMMENT

**New York City Council – Committee on Parks and Recreation Hearing on
Oversight: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks
September 17, 2013**

Good afternoon. My name is Maria Torres-Springer and I am the Chief Operating Officer of Friends of the High Line. Thank you to Chair Melissa Mark-Viverito and members of the Committee for the opportunity to speak today and thank you to the entire City Council for your support over the past decade. The High Line would not exist today if not for the Council's partnership and collaboration.

Fourteen years ago, the High Line was under threat of demolition. Two community residents formed Friends of the High Line and worked together with their neighbors, local business owners, community institutions and elected officials in support of the High Line's preservation and reuse as a public open space.

Today, under a license agreement with the City of New York, Friends of the High Line is responsible for operating and maintaining the High Line and raising the philanthropic funding to support the park. Custodians, gardeners, educators, mechanics, rangers, technicians — every person you see in a High Line uniform is an employee of Friends of the High Line. The City provides for security and utility services, while the rest of the park's operations budget is supported by donations, gifts, and grants secured by Friends of the High Line.

Importantly, the philanthropic funding we raise enables us to keep the High Line thriving for the more than 4.4 million people who visit the elevated railway each year. It allows us to tend the landscape, keep the park clean, and perform routine maintenance. It supports visitor services,

seasonal art installations, and more than 450 free annual education and volunteer programs. It allows us to support the robust set of programs we created to ensure that the High Line is a meaningful asset and resource to the residents of the two New York City Housing Authority developments closest to the High Line.

We believe that when you create innovative ways to encourage philanthropic giving to fund public amenities – whether parks, programs, or services – you take the burden off the taxpayers' shoulders, and everybody benefits. That is why park conservancies like Friends of the High Line are so important.

Together with our City partners, Friends of the High Line has created a park that has resulted in \$2 billion in private investment and more than 12,000 jobs, which in turn generates critical tax revenue for the city. We keep the park clean and beautiful for visitors, whose spending positively impacts local businesses and the city as a whole. While some may think the park draws primarily tourists, visitation counts show that half of the park's 4.4 million visitors annually are New Yorkers. With the public programs, education initiatives, and volunteer opportunities we organize and fund, we work hard to ensure the High Line is a local amenity as much as it is a destination.

In the years ahead, we still have much more work to do. We need to complete the first phase of construction on the park's third section. We need to finish the landscape design and mobilize construction teams for the second phase. We need to raise philanthropic funding to support the park's annual operations and grow community programming. And, we need to keep building our endowment to sustain the High Line as an extraordinary public space for future generations to enjoy.

The City Council's support has been so crucial to the High Line's success. We sincerely hope the Council will continue to help Friends of the High Line, as well as the other park conservancies, as it considers creative ways to maintain public parks citywide.



**New York City Council
Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight Hearing: The Role of Conservancies in Managing City Parks**

**New York Restoration Project Testimony
September 17, 2013**

**Testimony by Deborah Marton
Senior Vice President of Programs**

Good afternoon, Chairwoman, Committee members and distinguished colleagues. My name is Deborah Marton and I am Senior Vice President of Programs for New York Restoration Project. I am honored to be here today to testify on the success of public private partnerships and our work in New York City.

New York Restoration Project was founded eighteen years ago by Bette Midler, who was inspired by radical improvements in Central Park thanks to the Central Park Conservancy. NYRP is also a conservancy, but we're not connected to a particular site; we're driven by the commitment that every New Yorker deserves to enjoy the same levels of safety, cleanliness, and beauty in our parks and public open spaces. And we put our money where our mouth is – **since our founding in 1995 we've invested over \$100M in our city's highest need communities.**

NYRP focused first on the under-resourced parks of Northern Manhattan. I don't need to remind the Chairwoman and many of you that Fort Washington, Fort Tryon and Highbridge Parks were dumping grounds in the mid 90's. In close collaboration with the Parks department, our organization removed tons of garbage from these parks, turning them into safe, clean and respectful places for local citizens to recreate, exercise and escape the hardscape city.

I am handing out images of what became Sherman Creek Park – our crowning achievement and the **largest private investment to date** to build a park in a high need neighborhood. The images show the area before renovation, and then after our \$15M investment created a premier waterfront park on the Harlem River, reconnecting the communities of Inwood and Washington Heights with their waterfront. We also maintain the park, and with the help of a community stewardship group, it's every bit as spectacularly maintained as Central Park.

After renovating Fort Tryon Park, we opened the New Leaf Restaurant to encourage round-the-clock activity within the park. Similarly, in 2004 at Sherman Creek, we built the Harlem River's only community rowing boathouse, on a historic site that once supported a boating community rivaling those found

along Philadelphia's Schuylkill River or the Charles in Boston. Without the Peter J. Sharp Boathouse, our partner there, RowNY, would not have been able to train 140 local school children this fall alone in competitive rowing, with the goal of helping those kids secure a full scholarship to a premier college on a rowing scholarship.

And we're not done yet: over the next two years, to celebrate our 20th anniversary, we'll invest another \$5 million in improvements at Sherman Creek. We're now completing renovation of the last site within the park that's not yet publicly accessible. It will support a state-of-the-art, storm resilient, outdoor classroom and community boat storage facility, making it one of the city's premier sites for environmental education, water access and recreation. **That's** the power of public private partnerships.

NYRP is a conservancy that **ONLY** serves high need communities. Through our park renovations, community gardens and partnership with the City to plant one million new trees by 2015 (two years ahead of schedule), we are an example of how private investment can significantly improve our city's physical and social resilience. And our collaboration isn't limited to our work with Parks: we work across all jurisdictions – with NYCHA, City and State DOT, HPD and DEP, among others. We are a proud member of a thriving community of non-profits that care deeply about New York City's public realm. Each of us plays an important part in making this a more livable and sustainable city.

Thank you for your support, partnership and leadership of our great city.



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Veronica M. White

Address: _____

I represent: NYC Parks Commissioner

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Liam Kavanagh

Address: _____

I represent: NYC Parks First Deputy Commissioner

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Larry Scott Blackman

Address: _____

I represent: NYC Parks Deputy Commissioner

Address: _____

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆



THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Emily Lloyd

Address: 25 Prospect Park West

I represent: Prospect Park

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9.17.13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JENNIFER M. HOPPA

Address: FORT TAYLOR PARK COTTAGE

I represent: FORT TAYLOR PARK TRUST

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____
☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Eloise Hirsh

Address: 51 Chambers St

I represent: NYC Parks - Freshkills Park

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SARAH NEILSON

Address: 24 W. 61ST ST. NYC

I represent: WASHINGTON SQ PARK CONSERVANCY

Address: 24 W. 61st ST NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: VERONICA BULGARU

Address: 40 E 12th Ave.

I represent: WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK CONSERVANCY

Address: P.O. Box 1624 Cooper Station NY 10276

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DEBORAH MARTON

Address: 254 W. 31 ST. #10

I represent: NYRP

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jamie Melnick

Address: Olmsted Center, MCP, Flushing, NY 11368

I represent: NYC Parks

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HARBACHAN SINGH

Address: 193-12 Farthill Ave Hollis

I represent: Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Address: Corona Park

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HOLLY LECHT

Address: New York for Parks

I represent: _____

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Syderia Chrestfield

Address: 109 W. 123 St

I represent: Wt Morris Park Community Improvement Assn

Address: Marcus Garvey Park

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: PETER HARWIK

Address: ██

I represent: TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

Address: 666 BROADWAY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Dana Cohen

Address: 14 E 60th St., 10022

I represent: Central Park Conservancy

Address: Same as above

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

ROSEMARY ORDONEZ

Address:

1591 FULTON AVE, Bx, NY 10457

I represent:

FRIENDS OF CROTONA PARK

Address:

SAME AS ABOVE

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

TORNA DYENFORTH

Address:

1 BMX RIDE PARKWAY

I represent:

CROTONA PARK - PARKS DEPT

Address:

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name:

MARLENA GIGA

Address:

125 BARCLAY ST

I represent:

LOCAL 983 DC37

Address:

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joe Puleo

Address: 125 Barclay Street

I represent: DC 37 Local 983

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeff Craft

Address: _____

I represent: NYC Parks Advocate

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Steven Cain

Address: 200 Nevada Avenue, SI NY 10306

I represent: NYC Parks / Greenbelt Conservancy

Address: 200 Nevada Avenue, SI NY 10306

◆ Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms ◆

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9.17.2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: John Herrald

Address: 24 WEST 61st ST.

I represent: PARKS/RIVERSIDE PARK

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/18/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CAROLINE E PURDY

Address: 8 S OXFORD ST APT 3 BROOKLYN, NY

I represent: FORT GREENE PARK CONSERVANCY 11217

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katie Denny

Address: Brooklyn, NY

I represent: Socrates Sculpture Park

Address: Vernon Blvd, LIC

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tupper Thomas
Address: 361 77th St. Bklyn 11209

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joan Byron
Address: _____

I represent: Pratt Center for C.D. & Bronx River Alliance

Address: 1 Bronx R. Parkway
Px NY 10462

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Maria Torres - Springer
Address: 162 8th ave

I represent: Friends of the High Line

Address: 529 West 20th St

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Cathryn Swan

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Christine Patz-Romero

Address: 299 E 8th St

I represent: Lower East Side Ecology Ctr

Address: PO Box 20488 NY 10009

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Joan Byron

Address: 200 W 11th St Apt B Brooklyn

I represent: PART Center

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JACK T. LINN

Address: 170 2ND AVE

I represent: SELF

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brad Taylor

Address: 54 Morningside Dr

I represent: Friends of Morningside Park

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ED JANDET

Address: 75 PPW, BRUN 11215

I represent: PARKS DEPT., USA

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marianne Anderson

Address: NYC PARKS

I represent: _____

Address: Bronx NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brad Taylor

Address: _____

I represent: Friends of Morningside Park

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 9/17/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Katie Denny

Address: _____

I represent: Socrates Sculpture Park

Address: Queens

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Eloise Hirsh

Address: 51 Chambers

I represent: Fresh Kills Park

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: SARAH NELSON

Address: 23-51 38TH ST. / LIC NY 11105

I represent: WASHINGTON SQ PARK CONSERVANCY

Address: 24 WEST 61ST ST NYC

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: LINDA R. Cox

Address: _____

I represent: Bronx River Alliance & NYC Parks

Address: 1 Bronx River Pkway, Bronx NY 10462

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms