



**Hearing before the New York City Council
Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions
ULURP# C 130155 PPQ
June 20, 2013**

Testimony by: Dorothy Lewandowski, Queens Borough Commissioner

Good morning, I am Dorothy Lewandowski, Queens Borough Commissioner for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Thank you for inviting us to testify on behalf of the land use review application in support of the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Project.

Parks is the co-applicant with the United States Tennis Center Inc. (USTA) for the ULURP application to allow for the disposition by long-term lease of a 0.68-acre parcel within Flushing Meadows Corona Park to the USTA.

Parks, in coordination with USTA, is seeking the disposition approval in connection with proposed improvements and an expansion to the facilities at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (NTC), located in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. These improvements collectively are known as the NTC Strategic Vision Project. The Parks Department believes that the Strategic Vision Project will benefit park users and the City through the USTA's commitments to upgrade and modernize the National Tennis Center, which it has managed and maintained since 1978.

The purpose of the proposed project is to sustain the long-term viability of the NTC as a world-class spectator venue and outstanding public recreational facility. It would result in much needed improvements to the visitor experience and provide substantial long-term economic benefits to Queens, New York City, and the region.

The NTC is one of the world's largest public recreational tennis facilities. For 11 months of the year, its facilities are open to the public for indoor and outdoor tennis. The NTC is also host to the US Open, one of the sport's four Grand Slam championship tennis tournaments. The event is staged during a two-week period beginning late August until early September, is attended by approximately 700,000 spectators, and is broadcast worldwide.

The disposition of the 0.68-acre parcel proposed project is critical to the advancement of the Strategic Vision Project. The Plan allows for an improved NTC site plan, circulation, visitor amenities, and landscaping, and would include construction of two new stadiums to replace the existing Louis Armstrong Stadium in the same location, and Grandstand Stadium in a new location at the southwest corner of the NTC site, as well as possible improvements to Arthur Ashe Stadium. The project would also include modifications to tournament courts and ancillary buildings, the construction of two new parking garages, the relocation of a connector road, and pedestrian enhancements.

Most importantly, Parks has worked with the USTA to minimize expansion beyond existing NTC lease boundaries to reduce the amount of alienation of parkland, while meeting other project goals. These project goals include maintaining and improving the public availability of courts; improving NTC's context within the park; the replacement and upgrade of aging, out-of-date infrastructure and facilities that have reached the end of their useful lives; improvement to the visitor circulation; and maintaining opportunities for public programming throughout the year. The proposed site improvements and other components of the NTC Strategic Vision are intended to collectively further the project goals set forth above,

addressing serious deficiencies in the three existing stadiums and making the NTC more comfortable and friendly to the public, fans, sponsors and players, and recreational users, year-round.

The 0.68-acre strip that would be alienated is located north of United Nations Avenue North, and south of the existing NTC fence line. This area is currently a mix of landscaped and paved areas, including one lane of the three-lane United Nations Avenue North. The landscaped portion includes a triangular median area near an internal connector road, a median adjacent to the northernmost lane of United Nations Avenue North, and a narrow strip of lawn adjacent to the current NTC fence line. The landscaping includes trees in some areas, but no other park features, such as play equipment, benches, or statues.

Where trees could potentially be impacted as a result of Strategic Vision Project, Parks is evaluating which ones are able to be transplanted without compromising their health. Any trees which are to be removed will be replaced within FMCP or the neighboring communities as per the City's tree regulations.

As a result of the public land use review process with a total of six community boards and Borough President Helen Marshall providing recommendations and suggested modifications to the project, as well as comments received at the City Planning Commission hearing held on April 24 regarding the desire for replacement parkland. Parks has worked with the USTA to identify a total of 1.56-acres currently alienated for inclusion within the USTA's leased premises that will now no longer be permitted for USTA's exclusive use.

Replacement park land for the project will be comprised of two parcels totaling 1.56 acres that will be rededicated as parkland. These parcels were alienated in 1993 and are used as practice courts, with seating and related facilities, during the US Open and other major tennis tournaments. The two parcels are:

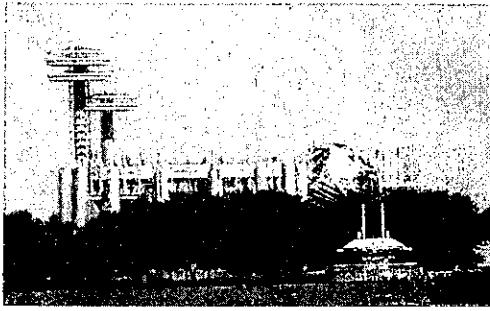
A 1.31-acre parcel located southeast of David Dinkins Circle that contains five tennis courts and landscaped areas. When not in use by USTA, these courts are used by the City Parks Foundation for lessons, hourly rentals, tournaments, leagues and special events.

A 0.25-acre landscaped parcel located just beyond the eastern end of the bank of six tennis courts to the east of the Passerelle.

The USTA would have use of the replacement park land parcels during the US Open and, subject to the Parks Department's approval, other tournaments. In addition, the USTA would remain responsible for maintenance and repair of the five tennis courts on an annual basis, so they continue to be available in good condition for public use.

Improvements to park features in Flushing Meadows Corona Park would also be provided. The USTA is committed to Flushing Meadows Corona Park and will work with Parks to facilitate park improvements to offset the 0.68-acre parcel to be added to the NTC leased premises.

Now I will turn it over to Gordon Smith, Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of the USTA, who will explain the strategic vision plan in greater detail and how the disposition action before you will allow for the USTA to continue its important role in providing for tennis activities on behalf of the public, as well as hosting the US Tennis Open.



Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy
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Testimony for USTA Expansion Public Hearing - Thursday, June 20th 11am
City Hall City Council Chambers

Flushing Meadows-Corona Park is the subject of USTA National Tennis Center Inc. proposals at this time that will affect thousands of people. The impact of these proposals will have repercussions for years to come.

We agree with New Yorker 4 Parks in that Parkland alienation should not occur unless **no other land is available to serve an essential public need.**

In a city as dense as New York, parkland is scarce and sacred. Parks should be the last place where private uses are sited, and the City's presumption should be against any alienation of parkland. Whether proposing a municipal non-park use or a private use that is arguably "compatible" with a park, the City should not view our parks as potential development sites, even for necessary or worthy projects.

The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy believes that each proposal should be handle separate and NOT as a group.

The laws regulating alienation need to be strengthened to ensure that those entities charged with protecting our parks have at least 30-days' notice of any potential alienation action, and that New Yorkers receive an equal amount of proximate new parkland of the same quality and character to replace any alienated parkland.

The City should not view our parks as potential development sites, even for necessary projects.

Flushing Meadows-Corona Park has gone through hard times and there is a lot of work that needs to be done like roads around the park, bike paths, walk way that are in need of repaired because drainage problems and have cracks and holes.

The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy is here for the Park and to work with the Parks Department, elected officials, friends group and all users of the park to bring the Park back to its former glory that it enjoyed during the period of the two Worlds Fairs.

In closing, The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy believes that all of us together can work together and make Flushing Meadows-Corona Park truly (The Flagship Park of Queens) and NOT just its icon for sale.

The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy will support you in this undertaking to make Flushing Meadows-Corona Park "The Flagship Park of Queens".

Thank You

Jean C. Silva, President
FMCP Conservancy



UNITED STATES TENNIS ASSOCIATION

New York City Council
Subcommittee on Planning Dispositions and Concessions

Public Hearing
Thursday, June 20, 2013

Testimony of Gordon Smith
Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer
United States Tennis Association

GOOD MORNING. MY NAME IS GORDON SMITH AND I'M THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF THE USTA. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TO YOU THE USTA'S STRATEGIC VISION FOR THE USTA BILLIE JEAN KING NATIONAL TENNIS CENTER LOCATED IN FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK.

OUR STRATEGIC VISION IS CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF THE US OPEN AND THE MISSION OF THE USTA, WHICH IS TO PROMOTE, DEVELOP AND GROW THE SPORT OF TENNIS ON EVERY LEVEL IN THE U.S.

OUR PLAN IS TO TRANSFORM THE TENNIS CENTER INTO THE MOST MODERN, FAN, PLAYER, AND COMMUNITY FRIENDLY TENNIS FACILITY IN THE WORLD, WHICH WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO SERVE MORE THAN 100,000 CITIZENS A YEAR, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM ARE NEW YORKERS, AS ONE OF THE PRE-EMINENT PUBLIC TENNIS FACILITIES IN THE WORLD.

THE TWO-WEEK US OPEN IS NYC'S LARGEST AND MOST VALUED ANNUAL PUBLIC SPORTING EVENT, GENERATING MORE THAN \$750 MILLION IN ECONOMIC IMPACT FOR THE CITY AND CREATING MORE THAN 6,000 SEASONAL JOBS, THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHICH ARE FILLED BY QUEENS AND NYC RESIDENTS AND IN ADDITION, THE US OPEN BROADCASTS THE EXCITEMENT OF NEW YORK CITY, QUEENS, AND THE OPEN TO OVER 188 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE.

SINCE MOVING TO FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK IN 1978, THE US OPEN AND NTC, WITH THE BENEFIT OF NO PUBLIC FUNDS, HAS ALREADY INVESTED OVER \$500 MILLION, HAVE CREATED BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ECONOMIC

ACTIVITY, ATTRACTED MILLIONS OF VISITORS, CREATED THOUSANDS OF PERMANENT AND SEASONAL JOBS, PAID TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN RENT TO THE CITY, AND ENHANCED THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY IN COUNTLESS WAYS. OUR PLANS CALL FOR US TO INVEST AN ADDITIONAL \$500 MILLION, AND CREATE MANY MORE JOBS DURING THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS? BECAUSE THE NTC IS AT A CROSSROADS AND THE US OPEN IS AT RISK OF BECOMING AN ALSO RAN SPORTING EVENT.

GIVEN THE FIERCE COMPETITION IN TODAY'S SPORTS LANDSCAPE AND MARKETPLACE, LOCALLY, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY, IT IS CRUCIAL THAT WE IMPROVE THE NTC – AND DO SO NOW.

THE PRINCIPAL GOALS OF THE STRATEGIC VISION INCLUDE REPLACING AND UPGRADING AGING INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES THAT HAVE REACHED THE END OF THEIR USEFUL LIVES. TWO OF OUR STADIUMS, LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND GRAND STAND WERE BUILT FOR THE 1964 WORLD'S FAIR AND ARE 50 YEARS OLD. AN EQUALLY CRITICAL GOAL IS TO MAKE THE US OPEN SAFER, MORE ACCESSIBLE, AND MORE FAN FRIENDLY, BY IMPROVING CIRCULATION FOR OUR VISITORS; EXPANDING PUBLIC PLAZAS AND PROMENADES; AND INCREASING SEATING CAPACITY TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES EACH DAY.

WE MADE CLEAR TO OUR ARCHITECTS FROM THE OUTSET THAT WE NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS AND TO MAKE THESE MUCH NEEDED AND

SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR SITE WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF IMPACT POSSIBLE TO FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK.

HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS, WE NEED A NARROW STRIP OF LAND, WHICH IS PRIMARILY AN UNDER-UTILIZED ASPHALT ROAD, OF JUST .68 ACRES, TO THE SOUTH OF THE FACILITY. BUT IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT OUR FOOTPRINT IN THE PARK WILL NOT EXPAND, WE WILL RETURN ALMOST TWICE THAT AMOUNT OF LAND - TWO PARCELS CURRENTLY ALIENATED AND LEASED TO THE USTA, AMOUNTING TO 1.56 ACRES.

HERE IS A SLIDE OF FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK. THE NTC IS LOCATED HERE; AND HERE ARE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE GRAND CENTRAL, RAILROAD AND PARK.

ARMSTRONG AND GRANDSTAND STADIUMS, AT 50 YRS OLD, HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR USEFUL LIFE AND NEED TO BE REPLACED. AS YOU CAN SEE, THEY ALSO ARE LOCATED RIGHT AT OUR EAST GATE ENTRANCE, WHERE 90+ PERCENT OF OUR FANS ENTER AND EXIT OUR SITE, CREATING CONGESTION ISSUES AT ALL TIMES.

IN THE SOUTHWEST CORNER, WE IDENTIFIED UNDERUTILIZED ALIENATED LAND AS THE BEST LOCATION FOR A RELOCATED GRANDSTAND COURT ALLOWING US TO ELIMINATE THE CONGESTION AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE. THE LARGER ISSUE TO ADDRESS WAS THE NARROW WALKWAY THAT LED PATRONS EAST AND WEST AT THE SOUTHERN END OF OUR SITE. IT WAS NOT NEARLY SUFFICIENT TO

BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE 8,000 FANS GOING TO AND FROM THE NEW GRANDSTAND COURT.

JUST OUTSIDE OF THE SOUTH GATE ARE THREE UNDERUTILIZED ASPHALT ROADWAYS, ONE OF WHICH WOULD BE ADEQUATELY LARGE ENOUGH FOR US TO SHIFT THE SEVEN SOUTHERN MOST FIELD COURTS SOUTH BY 20-30 FEET, THEREFORE INCREASING THE WALKWAY WITHIN OUR CAMPUS TO 42 FEET. THIS EXPANDED WALKWAY NOW MAKES IT POSSIBLE FOR FANS TO ACCESS THE NEW GRANDSTAND. THIS REDUCTION IN ASPHALT WILL OFFER A BETTER PARK EXPERIENCE FOR ALL USERS. THIS MINIMAL EXPANSION ALSO HELPS IMPROVE SITE CIRCULATION AND EXPAND PUBLIC PLAZAS AND PROMENADES.

THIS SINGLE 16' ASPHALT PATHWAY AND ITS SURROUNDING AREA WOULD BE REPLACED WITH AN IMPROVED LANDSCAPED BUFFER OUTSIDE OUR SOUTHERN GATES AND AN EXPANDED WALKWAY INSIDE OUR CAMPUS, WHILE STILL LEAVING TWO PATHWAYS THAT ARE MORE THAN SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC ALL YEAR LONG.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVERY SQUARE INCH OF PARKLAND IS PRECIOUS UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S JUST NO WAY TO MAKE THE NTC AND THE OPEN SAFER, MORE ACCESSIBLE AND FRIENDLY TO THE PUBLIC AND FANS WITHOUT A MINIMAL AMOUNT OF ADDITIONAL PARK LAND, AMOUNTING TO .68 ACRES, WHICH IS MOSTLY MADE UP OF AN EXISTING ASPHALT ROAD. OUR DESIGN MINIMALLY IMPACTS THE PARK AND MAXIMIZES SAFETY AND CIRCULATION WITHIN THE SITE.

AFTER LISTENING CLOSELY TO OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS AND LOCAL PARK USERS, WE WILL BE RETURNING ALMOST DOUBLE THE AMOUNT OF LAND THAT WE ARE REQUESTING BE ALIENATED – 1.56 ACRES.

OTHER CRITICAL PROJECTS THAT ARE A PART OF THE VISION, BUT WHICH DO NOT REQUIRE A VOTE OF THIS COUNCIL, INCLUDE.....

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS STRATEGIC VISION AND USTA CAPITAL INVESTMENT OVER THE NEXT 6 YEARS WILL BUILD UPON THE STRONG FOUNDATION WE HAVE BUILT IN THE PARK OVER THE PAST 35 YEARS AND CONTINUE TO INCREASE THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE CITY, EMPLOYMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FROM THIS QUEENS JEWEL.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT OUR VISION THIS MORNING AND WE ARE HAPPY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.



New York City Council

**Public Hearing Regarding Proposed USTA Tennis Center Expansion
in Flushing Meadows Corona Park**

June 19, 2013

Testimony of Holly Leicht, New Yorkers for Parks

I'm Holly Leicht, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks, the citywide independent organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods.

The USTA would like to expand the 42-acre Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, which has proven wildly successful as home to the U.S. Open each summer, to increase spectator capacity by 10,000, accommodate VIP parking, and better facilitate pedestrian movement.

What complicates the proposed \$500 million expansion is that the complex is located on mapped parkland within Flushing Meadows Corona Park, the largest park in New York's largest borough.

Flushing Meadows is among the city's most heavily used public spaces, especially by residents of surrounding, park-starved communities like Flushing, Corona, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights. Park-users consistently tell us it is a central part of their lives: as a recreational mecca for soccer, baseball and cricket players, a gathering place for family barbecues and picnics, a favorite locale for bike rides, runs and walks, and a quiet escape for nature lovers.

But despite the park's beloved status, it has been under resourced and ill maintained for decades. We hear frustrated complaints about the park's endemic maintenance woes, from flooding and drainage problems to a constant battle against litter.

Given these challenges and the park's international exposure as the backdrop for the U.S. Open, one might expect the USTA to be an avid steward of Flushing Meadows. But historically there has not been an ongoing relationship between the USTA and the park. Now, as the USTA looks to increase its footprint in and impact on this critical park, it's critical that it invest not just in its own facility, but also in the park that is its profitable tournament's home.

The USTA proposal calls for .68 acres of parkland to be alienated, an increase in the size of USTA's leasehold, new and refurbished stadiums to increase capacity by 10,000, a multi-story parking facility, and a new access road through passive open space outside the leasehold. We commend the Parks

Department and the USTA for reaching agreement to replace the alienated parkland onsite, and we are glad that conversations are underway to find meaningful ways for the USTA to broaden public access to the complex throughout the year. Currently, the USTA charges \$40-\$66 an hour for use of its courts during peak times, which far exceeds the \$200 cost to obtain an annual permit to use other Parks Department tennis courts. Though the Center holds occasional clinics with camps and schools, by its own admission, it could do much more to engage the surrounding community.

What's more, thousands of cars are allowed to park on the park's lawns during the U.S. Open each year, leaving the grass scarred for months. This practice can and should end, through the development of a thoughtful traffic and parking plan for the tournament, rather than the NYPD's current ad hoc practice of routing cars wherever it's most expedient.

The USTA's annual rent payment of about \$2.5 million – which won't increase after expansion – goes entirely to the City's general fund, not to the park. In fact, not a dime of the estimated \$250 million the center nets annually goes into Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Before approval of an expansion that would allow the USTA to profit further from this park, the USTA – which, according to *Crain's*, reported a \$17 million surplus in 2010 – must commit to a significant, long-term investment in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. This doesn't mean just funding one-time capital projects to sweeten the pot during the public review of this proposal. This means:

1. an ongoing, annual contribution to a new nonprofit alliance to fund the park's maintenance, as well as an upfront capital commitment;
2. a commitment to cease using public lawns for parking during the U.S. Open; and
3. a redefined relationship with park-users and the surrounding community to make the tennis complex a truly public facility.

We appreciate the steps taken by the Bloomberg Administration and the USTA during this ULURP process to mitigate the impacts of the USTA's private use on Flushing Meadows Corona Park. We hope the City Council will call for these additional commitments to ensure that Flushing Meadows is no longer the forgotten step-sister among New York City's largest parks.



Jack Friedman, Executive Director
Albert F. Pennisi, Counsel

Carol Conslato, President
Mayra DiRico, 1st Vice President
Gerard J. Thornton, Treasurer

City Council's Subcommittee on Planning
Dispositions and Concessions
USTA ULURP
June 20, 2013

Testimony of: Jack Friedman, Executive Director
Queens Chamber of Commerce
Read by: Eric Abrams, Queens Chamber of Commerce

Good morning members of the City Council. My name is Eric Abrams and I will be reading the testimony of Jack Friedman, Executive Director of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.

On behalf of our nearly 1,000 business and business organization members, I am here in support of the USTA's plan to improve and expand the National Tennis Center (NTC) in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

This proposed project holds special significance to numerous businesses in Queens, and is especially vital when you consider that the US Open generates nearly \$750 million a year in economic activity for the city. Much of this money is spent on hotels, restaurants, entertainment and other purchases by the more than 700,000 spectators who descend upon Queens during the tournament. In Queens alone, the tournament is responsible for nearly 2,600 hotel room nights. The USTA also generates over 6,000 seasonal jobs, many of which last as long as six months and employ Queens residents.

There's also a great financial impact during the rest of the year, and that's because the National Tennis Center hosts numerous tournaments that bring competing teams from all over the tri-state area and country to Queens to patronize our local businesses. The visiting tennis teams and their families stay at hotels in Corona, Flushing, East Elmhurst and elsewhere, dine at local restaurants, and shop at local businesses. Additionally, 100,000 tennis participants from more than 70 schools train and play matches at the Center, again, a boon to our local economy.

The USTA has been a great community partner. This past year the USTA allowed the Queens Tourism Council and the Queens Chamber of Commerce to operate a kiosk during the U.S. Open. This was a wonderful opportunity to offer guests information on places to eat, places to stay and places to go during their visit to Queens. Dozens of local restaurants, hotels and cultural venues benefitted through this effort.

In addition, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, they made donations of goods and money to relief efforts in Queens totaling more than \$400,000. The USTA worked with us to ensure these critical supplies reached those in need.

Another benefit from the U.S. Open is the number of times the Unisphere or Flushing Meadow Corona Park are shown on television, around the globe. We, as a borough anxious to maximize tourism dollars, could never afford the free, positive publicity those impressions make to potential visitors to our great borough. After all, nearly 20% of U.S. Open visitors come from outside the United States.

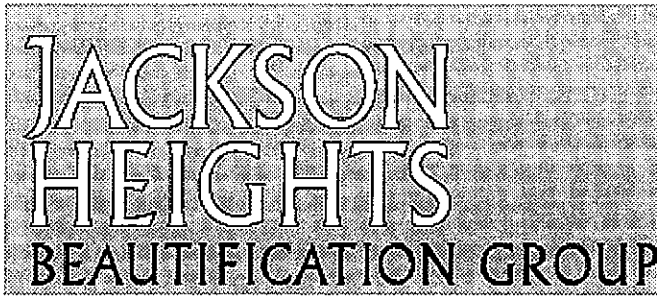
I urge you to support the USTA's expansion plan for the National Tennis Center because, it will create 800 good-paying construction jobs, increase opportunities to local Queens businesses and because they are a great economic engine for Queens and the City of New York.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Friedman", written in a cursive style.

Jack Friedman
Executive Director.



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Stop the Creeping Annexation of Our Park

The National Tennis Center is a gated community on 42 acres of prime parkland in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, surrounded by an 8-foot high fence. Since it opened, it has expanded further and further into the park. It now wants to expand once again and take *more* parkland. *The Jackson Heights Beautification Group (JHBG) strongly opposes handing over more parkland.*

We love tennis. In principal, we don't oppose expansion of the Tennis Center **WITHIN** the current 42 acres it already has. We may even be prepared to live with the transportation headaches and environmental impact of an extra 100,000 people coming to tennis matches. *But we absolutely oppose turning over more public parkland for this purpose.*

We are asked to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Study but **It's like pinning jello to a tree.** How can you vote on a work in progress? You need the final product.

The Tennis Center has room to expand within its current boundaries. *The extra land is only being used to accommodate a 'Miracle Mile' walkway within the NTC.* However this land is essential to the Queens communities that rely on the park as an oasis of precious green space and a haven of tranquility in a very crowded city.

The United States Tennis Association (USTA) says that the Tennis Center is open to the public 11 months a year. But access isn't cheap. While playing on the outdoor courts costs \$22 per hour, access to the indoor courts during the colder months comes at a steep price: \$40 to \$66 an hour.

You might think that Flushing Meadows-Corona Park benefits from the money the USTA pays to the City to lease the land. But you'd be wrong. The money goes to the City's general fund. It does not find its way directly back to the park to support general maintenance. (As it is, the USTA pays less than 2% of its revenue to lease the parkland.)

You might think that the USTA makes substantial charitable donations to help pay for park upkeep and improvements. You'd be wrong again. It gave only \$6,000 to organizations in Queens in 2010.

Our TOP PRIORITY, though, is PRESERVING PARKLAND. We urge the City Council to say NO to this creeping annexation of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. Any expansion of the Tennis Center can and should remain within its current boundaries. Turn over any more parkland now, and it is gone forever.

Respectfully submitted by Edwin O'Keefe Westley, President

City Council's subcommittee on Planning Dispositions and Concessions
USTA ULURP
June 20, 2013

Testimony By: Rob MacKay, Director of Tourism - Queens Economic Development Corporation & Operations for the Queens Tourism Council.

Good afternoon members of the City Council. I am Rob MacKay, Director of Tourism Queens Economic Development Corporation. We operate the Queens Tourism Council - over 40 members representing many of the hotels, cultural organizations and visitor attractions in Queens - including the USTA. I'm honored to be here in support of the USTA's plan to improve and expand the National Tennis Center (NTC) in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

This proposed project holds special significance to numerous businesses in Queens, and is especially vital when you consider that the US Open generates nearly \$750 million a year in economic activity for the city. Much of this money is spent on hotels, restaurants, entertainment and other purchases by the more than 700,000 spectators who descend upon Queens during the tournament. In Queens alone, the tournament is responsible for nearly 2,600 hotel room nights. This is a significant boost to our local economy - thousands of jobs - many held by people from Queens have.

There's also a great financial impact during the rest of the year, and that's because the NTC hosts numerous tournaments that bring competing teams from all over the tri-state area and country to Queens to patronize our local businesses. The visiting tennis teams and their families stay at hotels in Corona, Flushing, East Elmhurst and elsewhere, dine at local restaurants, and shop at local businesses. Last summer - for the first time - the Queens Tourism Council had kiosk at the Open - hundreds of visitors were directed to Queens businesses.

It should also be noted that the proposed National Tennis Center project will increase the capacity of the NTC site to allow for an additional 10,000 daily spectators during the US Open, which means more patrons and more revenue for businesses in Queens.

In addition, the USTA has been a great community partner. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the QTC put out a call for donations. Literally, within minutes we received an email from the USTA wishing donate. Subsequently they donated over \$400,000 of goods and money to relief efforts. The USTA worked with us to ensure these critical supplies reached those in need.

I urge you to support the USTA's expansion plan for the NTC. They are a great economic engine through job creation and visitor attraction. They will also spend an additional \$500M in our borough in the next 7 years. But most importantly they have been a good neighbor - and I have confidence they will continue to be one going forward.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm happy to answer any questions from the Council.

City Council's subcommittee on Planning Dispositions and Concessions
USTA ULURP
June 20, 2013

Testimony By: Jim Carlson, President, MJI

Good morning members of the City subcommittee. My name is Jim Carlson and I operate a Local Union 638 steamfitter shop called MJI and have been providing Heating and Air Conditioning services to the National Tennis Center (NTC) for the past 15 years plus was part of the union mechanical contractor for the construction of Arthur Ashe Stadium back in the mid 1990's.

I'm happy to be here to pledge my support for the United States Tennis Association's plan to improve and expand the NTC in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

I'm grateful for the year-round work we get from the NTC. It's a major source of revenue for our business and means I can employ 35 workers, many of which live in Queens.

The NTC is an important revenue source for countless businesses in Queens and MJI and our Local 638 shop supports all efforts to ensure that the NTC remains a world class venue and top public recreational facility.

I thank you for allowing me to testify before you today and urge you to lend your support to this plan.

Srinivas Mahankali

I always brag to my sister in Chicago and relatives and friends elsewhere that the US Open is played in our neighborhood, not far from our home. I brought my kids to USTA as soon as they could hold the racket without dropping it. USTA has so many different varieties of programs for different levels and different ages. It was also from USTA that we learned about the free early morning program of New York Junior Tennis and Learning (NYJTL).

Ever since then, our family has grown lot closer to tennis, and through that, to USTA. Growing up, I was not in to sports. But the presence of USTA in the community inspired me and our family to pursue active lifestyle. And as a natural progression, tennis became our favorite sport.

My kids love tennis. Having USTA so close is a boon to them. Since when he was seven years old, my younger son eagerly used to wait for the weekend mornings when he could train in the NYJTL early morning tennis program at NTC. In fact, it was him who got up first and woke me up at 5:30 AM on Saturdays and Sundays!

I am sure I speak for so many grateful parents who lovingly help out - whether it is running around picking the balls so that the kids can focus on hitting the balls, or helping to feed the balls during drills. I myself volunteer during the early morning program, conducting footwork drills for the players. I thank USTA for facilitating this NYJTL program that benefits hundreds of children from around the area - to improve their tennis and to productively use their weekends.

My son is in the NYJTL tournament team. USTA enables this NYJTL program as well by generously helping with free off-court and on-court resources.

In addition to these, the USTA also provides resources for many scholastic and athletic events of NYJTL, such as the Mayor's Cup, and also provides rooms for the SAT prep courses for some of the NYJTL participants.

My Children and I have been to the US Open last year, which turned out to be great experience - we were able to watch tennis stars, such as Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic, Serena Williams and Andy Roddick in action. It was such an inspiring event to all of us!

In conclusion, I would like to say that the USTA is the jewel in the crown of New York City, and as residents of this great city, we should all support the measures that will help enhance its role, and make the city an even better place.

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Testimony By: Scott Daly, Site Director BJKNTC

Good afternoon members of the City Council. My name is Scott Daly, with the New York Junior Tennis League and I'm a site director at BJKNTC. I'm from Queens and I'm honored to be here to show my support for the USTA's expansion plan for the National Tennis Center (NTC) in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

I'm forever grateful to the USTA because, thanks to them, we have an incredible facility in which to hold our Winter Early Morning Program. As part of this unique program kids display a huge level of commitment to a sport they love by getting up on the weekend at 5am. Their parents fill the viewing area each weekend from Mid-November through March without fail. Special events, tournaments and parties round out this community program which currently has over 400 participants registered.

I hope you can support this plan because, among other things, the NTC is where our kids learn tennis, where our local schools, colleges and tennis clubs play and where the best players in the world compete in a tournament that showcases Queens for all the world to see.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions from the committee.

Yvette Ramirez's Testimony about the proposed USTA expansion in Flushing Meadows Corona Park

My name is Yvette Ramirez and I am a community organizer at Make the Road NY but most importantly I am a concerned Queens resident as I was raised in Astoria and currently have lived in Elmhurst for the past 10 years. I am concerned because in all the years that I have come to Flushing Meadows Park I have never felt a genuine interest from the USTA to be part of the community. I grew up seeing its year round padlocked 8 foot metal gates and gated empty facilities except for those few weeks during the US Open when wealthy tourists were welcomed with open arms. Even though the USTA site is supposedly free and open to the public there is no signage indicating that, thus demonstrating a lack of outreach and involvement with the community. The USTA has shown time and time again it is a bad neighbor as it blocks community soccer leagues from playing during the US Open and dominates the park with car traffic thus limiting community access. Occasionally as a teenager I would form part of a Bolivian folkloric dance group open for the community. We and other dance groups would practice on the park's boardwalk passarelle but come US Open, we were prohibited from practicing there and forced out on the adjacent parking lots. The USTA continues to take over our already scarce green, public space but they have given very little to the park's upkeep and maintenance and the park has for years deteriorated and remained unkept. The USTA should be a more responsible, conscious neighbor and direct more resources to maintain and take care of the park. I would like to see the USTA sign a Community Benefits Agreement that would make it clear what the USTA's responsibility is to the surrounding community. I call on you as members of the City Council to protect our park and make sure it remains for the community. Thank you.

Felipe Idrovo's Testimony

Good Afternoon,

My name is Felipe Idrovo; I am a resident of Queens more than 13 years and a member of Make the Road NY

Right next to Flushing Meadows Corona Park is Park Terrace Nursing Home located at Van Doren St, 1 block from the park. In this nursing home, which I picked because it is close to public green space, is my brother Pietro who suffers from cerebral damage due to an accident he suffered 3 years ago. I take my brother in his wheelchair to the park so he can enjoy the open recreational space filled with kites, bicycles, birds, children playing, musicians, athletes, swimming pools and trees. Most importantly there is the liberty to freely move around without the fear of private entities.

Now I am very concerned that private developers with the backing of Mayor Michael Bloomberg have put their attention on our park, a place where we can breathe liberty, to build or in this case expand private development projects that would negatively affect our communities. Most of all it would affect community members that so desperately need this green space such children dealing with obesity, the elderly and individuals with asthma or with special needs such as my brother. If flushing meadows park was no longer accessible, I would be obligated to hire an ambulance to be able to take him to another, much more distant park since there is such a scarcity of green space in our community. I agree that there be investment in the economies of our communities but not with a social and environmental cost.

Green spaces are essential to the well-being of human beings and as such we must assure ourselves that our communities have access to such spaces.

We are ready to fight until the very last consequences to keep our park free, open and accessible. I am here speaking on behalf of my brother but I know if I was confined to the nursing home he would be here speaking on my behalf.

I urge you all, as our city authorities to listen to our voices and your conscience so that our park does not end up full of cars, noise, air pollution due to these development projects. Please save our park.

Thank You

All referees and umpires who have worked at the U.S. Open tennis championships since '05 are now part of a class action lawsuit suing the USTA for back pay and damages, a N.Y. federal judge ruled Thursday..... **The USTA had stoutly resisted creating the class, arguing the refs and umpires were independent contractors not covered under labor laws.** The USTA also argued there was so much difference between the jobs of the proposed class that they could not withstand the legal test for creating one. While the court was not ruling on the merits of the case, Carter wrote in his opinion he disagreed with the USTA contention that there was so much difference between the job descriptions of the refs and umpires they could not be covered under a class. "While the line to chair umpire experience certainly varies at the margins, it appears from the deposition testimony, together with declarations offered by the USTA -- that most, if not all, Umpires perform a similar swath of duties," Carter wrote. **It is unclear exactly how many people will be part of the suit (last year alone there were 289 line umpires who worked the Open)....**The class counsel is Abbey Spanier, LLP, and The Law Office of Mitchell Schley, LLP. The USTA could not immediately be reached for comment.

<http://m.sportsbusinessdaily.com/Daily/Issues/2013/04/26/Leagues-and-Governing-Bodies/USTA.aspx>

Many Top Umpires Decide to Skip the Open 9/7/2011

Gold badge chair umpires, the highest-rated officials in professional tennis, the ones who work the most important tournaments and matches, make \$250 each day at the Open. It is the **lowest pay rate for any Grand Slam tournament.** There are 26 such umpires. Twenty-four of them worked Wimbledon, but only 13 are here at the Open.

For gold badge umpires, officiating tournaments is their primary job and main source of income. At most tournaments, their pay is set by the ATP World Tour, the WTA or the International Tennis Federation. But at Grand Slam events, tournament organizers dictate everything from pay rates to accommodations. Chryst said the United States Open once paid the most among major tournaments, an assertion that was confirmed by a current gold badge umpire who requested anonymity because they are not allowed to conduct interviews without permission. Now, the Open pays the least... A spreadsheet obtained by The New York Times showed that **Wimbledon paid gold badge umpires £189, or about \$306 daily. The French Open paid 190 euros (about \$270), even for the tournament's qualifying rounds, while the United States Open pays \$185 a day for its qualifying rounds.**

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/07/sports/tennis/many-top-tennis-umpires-skip-the-us-open.html?_r=0

USTA gives back FMCP land, will keep using it 5/9/2011

The USTA is giving back parkland it leased, but continuing to use it as if it's paying rent, according to the nonprofit. **The deal represents no net gain in the acreage of mapped city parkland.** The USTA said it will relinquish the property, but it will continue to house five tennis courts. The property will continue to be maintained by the nonprofit but be open to the public 50 weeks a year. **It will be closed off during the two weeks the park hosts the US Open.**

http://www.qchron.com/editions/queenswide/usta-gives-back-fmcp-land-will-keep-using-it/article_b892689e-15a4-52d3-82e1-954bdb46e0c5.html

There has been much talk by the USTA and NYC Parks Department extolling all the good the USTA does for our residents. A close review demonstrates the falsity of the claims. I play tennis in Cunningham Park twice a week. Recently I was awaiting the arrival of my co-players, I asked the person in charge to tell me in detail what the USTA does for tennis in Cunningham Park. The answer was absolutely nothing. The time has come to recognize the USTA for what it is and reject its false bravado.

1. Yes, it does make courts available to some teenage groups free of charge, but at 6 AM and 8AM when the courts would for the most part be empty.
2. Taxpayers whose parkland was given to the USTA free of charge must pay to play on its courts for about \$50.00 an hour. I play in Cunningham for \$40.00 for two hours. In the late Spring, Summer and early Fall, as a senior I pay \$20.00 for a permit that allows me to play all that time without any charge. The USTA uses our parkland as a business not as a charitable organization interested in our residents whose parkland they have taken.
3. Last year the USTA earned \$270.00 million dollars and paid the City a paltry \$2.5 million dollars. Has anybody seen the USTA's books and knows how that money is spent? Do we know how much the executives in their luxurious building in Harrison, New York, not New York City it dumped after it got parkland, are paid? Do we know how much is spent in Queens, as compared to the rest of the country? I do not think you should buy a smokescreen based upon vague promises that if at all will come to pass long after your vote..
4. The game being played by the USTA is not tennis. It is MONEYMONEY< Money. That is okay, but not on the backs of our park.
5. In all the years the USTA has been in Flushing Meadows Corona Park it has done nothing, absolutely nothing for the park. The issue before you is not just seeking .68 acre of parkland, but that it will then result in the USTA drastically increasing the size of its structures in the park It would be like your neighbor who has a small house and wants to turn it into a large apartment building. That would not and should not be acceptable, nor should the USTA be permitted to add significantly to what is already too much alien park structures...

You should reject the proposal. The USTA can do very well with what it has, It will not give up a sweetheart deal.

Benjamin M. Haber

Ben Haber

I shall attempt to clear the air of the smokes screen the USTA and the NYC Parks Department has been spewing on our communities and give an opportunity to cast a vote based upon the facts not speculation.

The application is not simply for .68 acre of parkland that will not be replaced, but it would result in the USTA building a new stadium to replace the grand stand and to rebuild a much larger Louis Armstrong stadium. ; a 423 space 2 level garage and a 270 space 3 level garage. ; the destruction of hundreds of trees. We are talking about a major increase in vehicular traffic and a significant increase in visible structures that are already an eyesore in a public park and will be made more so.

The USTA left Forest Hills to make more money, since it did not have to buy land on the open market, it got your parkland free and a sweetheart deal to boot. It promised not to ask for more land, a promise as worthless as a dead tennis ball, because it did come back and extort more parkland and now seeks more.

Enough is enough. The time has come to say NO. Do not be swayed by the NYC Parks Department. Its treatment of FMCP is a disgrace. It has become a lobbyist for the USTA, not the protector of our park. If it spent even half the time helping our park that it does lobbying for the USTA, we might have a better park. Do not be influenced by unfounded claims of an economic windfall. All sports activities together in this city do not account for more than 7/10ths of one percent of the City's gross economic product. It does not put more police or firefighters in the streets. Most fans who catch the game, then catch the train home. They do not stop to shop in Queens.

If you need any proof sports activities do not in any significant economic way help us, remember when the Jets, Giants and Dodgers left New York City, we did not go bankrupt. We flourished without them. Do not buy any claim the residents of your Board or even of Queens will be given priority for jobs. That would be illegal and struck down by the Courts. The park belongs to all the residents of this City and a job seeker cannot be favored over others based upon where he or she resides..

Do not buy any claim its facilities after a mere 25 years are out of date and it cannot compete. At a recent Board 3 meeting, they stated their complex is the largest tournament center in the world. Do not be concerned if you say no, it will leave. Last year it made \$275 million dollars and paid the city a paltry \$2.5 million dollars. Greedy it is, but not stupid. It will not give up what for it "as is" is a fantastic deal. As far as the USTA is concerned, the issue ladies and gentlemen is

not you or I, the people of this city, the poor and the middle class who need and use the park. The game being played is not tennis. It is MONEY< MONEY< MONEY., that goes into the pockets of the professional players, USTA executives and its activities throughout the Country and world, not just Queens. I am not against a company making money, but not on the backs of the peoples park. Speakers who say they enjoy some activities the USTA provides, need have no concern/. The issue is expansion, not ejection.

Suddenly with their greedy backs to the wall, the USTA after ignoring the needs of the park all these years, may come up with something, the, details of which if at all, will not be fully known today but in the future without your involvement, Even if they do something , it would still be an alienation of public parkland in sheep's clothing, A civilized society does not equate parkland, a non renewable resource, with economics. We would not alienate Central, Bronx or Prospect Parks and we should not FMCP.

I need to say a few words about a recent proposal by City Council member Julissa Ferreras. While she claims parkland is precious, not only has she has never done a thing to stop the damage being inflicted on the park, she has now come up with a proposal that will inflict more damage, but is also an insult to your intelligence. We are stuck with the Mets and the USTA in the park and that is a fact. We are not stuck with a USTA expansion . We are not stuck with a Major Soccer League stadium in the park. We are not stuck with Mets owner billionaire Wilpon's plan to convert their parking lots which is parkland, into a huge shopping mall which will destroy all the small businesses on Northern Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue. She has made a proposal for a so called public-private partnership to benefit the park. If by that she meant the Mets and the USTA recognizing that in all the years they have been in the park they have done nothing for the park and now contribute some money, fine. But that is not what she really means. What she means is give the USTA an expansion. Give the soccer league a stadium in the park. Give Wilpon a huge shopping mall on parkland and this phony partnership will give some money for the park. She is telling you that for some money we should sell off more parkland. What she is telling you is let us continue to dump on your park. Her proposal is a smokes screen and not being honest with the public who pays her salary and generous perks. because it demonstrates she considers big private business more important to her than you. This is unacceptable and will be vigorously opposed. Do not buy this cynical politics and a vote no on the USTA application will send an important message about how you feel about your park.

With due respect, your obligation is to protect the park not just for current residents of Queens. but for generations as yet unborn. Please vote NO. Thank you.

Benjamin M. Haber

Michael Littman

I am Michael Littman a Tennis Instructor at the BJKNTC. I was also a High School Teacher for 32 years and worked for the NYJTL for 15 years. My main interest is in promoting the positive impact of tennis programs on children. Longitudinal studies and my personal observations confirm the fantastic and long lasting results on health, academics and life skills for children who play tennis.

I also want to remind everyone about the extensive number of free and low cost programs that children and their families can participate in at the BJKNTC. For example, Arthur Ashe Kids Day, US Open Qualifiers, watching a myriad of tournaments, Summer Camp, Aces School Program, and 36' and 60' courts for 10 and under players; are only some of the programs available.

I fully support the expansion program at the BJKNTC because I have witnessed the positive impact of tennis participation on thousands of young people. With the growth and support of the United States Tennis Association, I am sure that these youth specific tennis programs will expand geometrically in the future.

Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe – City Council Remarks

Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions, & Concessions – Re: USTA – Thursday, June 20, 2013

Good afternoon esteemed members of the City Council. My name is Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe and I am a photographer. I have considered myself a New Yorker for more than 40 years, since I moved to New York City to attend college. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Strategic Vision for the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (NTC) in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

I am here today to speak to you not only in my capacity as a New Yorker but also as the wife of the late Arthur Ashe. Arthur was a great tennis champion and the first African-American male to win a Grand Slam title and to be ranked number one in the world. His accomplishments proved to the world that tennis was indeed an “open” sport.

But Arthur was an even greater champion off the court. Arthur viewed himself as a citizen of the world and he took that responsibility very seriously. The positive changes he helped foster and the causes he championed, both within tennis and society at large, will live on forever. He transcended the game of tennis to reach all of humanity, and did so with great courage, conviction and dignity.

For these reasons, the USTA in 1997 named the new stadium at the NTC after Arthur and erected a statue in his honor outside the stadium. Etched in stone beneath the statue are the profound words of Arthur: “From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however makes a life.”

Over the years, many people and organizations have honored Arthur for his life, work and contributions to society. Although Arthur was a man who eschewed awards and titles, I think he would be proud that the main stadium at the NTC bears his name because he was extremely committed to using tennis to foster opportunities for those who needed them most. In addition, his name on the stadium displays how tennis as a sport has changed and continues to change for the better: growing to include a larger and more diverse audience, both ethnically and socio-economically, every year. The community outreach initiated by the USTA is primarily responsible for this transformation.

Throughout his adult life, Arthur was committed to developing tennis and education programs for America’s inner-city youth. To that end, he co-founded the National Junior Tennis League in 1969 with the vision to “use tennis as a way to gain and hold the attention of young people...so that we can teach them about matters more important than tennis...through tennis, lives can be changed and spirits reclaimed.”

The USTA and National Tennis Center share in the mission to help develop the character of young people through tennis and education. They’ve been a great partner in the local Queens communities, striving to build better lives for local youth through the sport of tennis.

During hundreds of annual community programs at the NTC, they host more than 100,000 participants of all ages, many of whom are from Queens. In addition, through their partnership with the New York Junior Tennis League they have been bettering the lives of kids in Queens, providing them with the necessary tools to excel both on and off the court. The program reaches thousands of local youth each year, providing 70 public schools in Queens with free tennis equipment and direct mentoring/training opportunities for 15,000 students, as well as after-school programs.

One such program is their Project ACES, which brings the game of tennis to thousands of kids in Queens who might not otherwise have the opportunity to be exposed to, and participate in the game of tennis. The NYJTL program gives children the opportunity to experience the sport of tennis through an educational seminar, a guided tour of the NTC, including Arthur Ashe Stadium, and on-court tennis instruction from the professional staff. The educational component of the program raises awareness and appreciation about the legacies of both Arthur and Billie Jean King. The important takeaways that children receive are that these two players were more than great champions, they transcended the sport to become iconic world figures because they gave back and gave a voice to key social and cultural issues.

The ACES program also extends back into the schools, where the USTA's tennis professionals work with the physical education teachers to ensure that the students, 96 percent of whom have never been to the NTC or have ever watched a tennis match, have ongoing exposure to tennis. Participants in the ACES program also receive scholarships to the NTC summer camp program by submitting a winning essay in the "My Day at the USTA Billie Jean King Tennis Center" essay contest.

There is much more good will that the USTA does at the tennis center that benefits the people of Queens, from participating in Queens based community outreach events to providing more than 5,000 free tickets to Queens-based community groups for Arthur Ashe Kids Day. The USTA and the tennis center staff view themselves as being part of the Queens community and they take that responsibility seriously.

In fact, this summer, the nonprofit Arthur Ashe Learning Center, of which I am the Chairman, is hosting a free educational exhibit based around the life and values of Arthur Ashe at the New York Hall of Science and partnering with the USTA to help promote the exhibit in the community. As part of our partnership, the New York Hall of Science will not charge admission during this period, allowing for all visitors to access the museum and our Inspirational Tour exhibit for free. This is just one example of how the USTA is working with neighboring organizations to support and enrich the community of Queens. We are pleased to be a part of these efforts.

The life and work of Arthur will live on forever, and I am grateful that his name, his memory and many of the important causes he stood for will live on at the NTC.

I urge you to support the Strategic Vision because not only will it preserve the NTC's stature as a top public recreational facility and world-class spectator venue but also help the USTA and NTC continue its tradition of improving the lives of youth and the Queens community as a whole.

In closing, I'd like to thank the Council for its time, and would be happy to answer any questions.

**City Council's subcommittee on Planning Dispositions and Concessions
USTA ULURP
Thursday June 20, 2013**

Testimony By: Harry Duhkram, Seasonal Worker at the National Tennis Center

Good afternoon members of the City Council. My name is Harry Duhkram and I'm employed as a seasonal Guest Services worker at the National Tennis Center (NTC) in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. I work for the duration of the tournament as a seasonal employee. I'm from Richmond Hill and I'm honored to be here to show my support for the USTA's expansion plan for the NTC.

Given today's tough economy, I'm extremely thankful for the seasonal work I get at the NTC. Countless local residents, including myself, rely on this work either to help make ends meet or to earn some extra money.

The number of seasonal jobs resulting from the US Open is more than 6,000, with 41 percent of the employees hailing from Queens and 85 percent from New York City. It should also be noted that the USTA generates 127 full-time jobs for Queens residents.

It is vital that you support this plan.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm happy to answer any questions from the committee.

**City Council's subcommittee on Planning Dispositions and Concessions
USTA ULURP
Thursday June 20, 2013**

Testimony By: Luis Marcial, Full-Time Employee at the National Tennis Center

Good afternoon members of the City Council. My name is Luis Marcial and I'm a full-time employee at the National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. I'm employed as a senior coordinator in our facility operations department and have worked at the NTC for past 5 years. During my 5 years at the NTC, the USTA has afforded me the opportunity to go back to school to get my masters in Facilities Management and has maintained a strong educational reimbursement plan to help pay my expenses. I live in Ridgewood, Queens and I'm pleased to be here to pledge my support for the USTA's expansion plan for the NTC.

The USTA generates 127 full-time jobs for Queens residents and workers earn an estimated \$5.57 million in employee compensation. The expansion plan would create an estimated 800 full-time jobs (approximately 80 jobs per year) for Queens residents over a 6-year construction period. It should also be noted that the US Open generates over 6,000 seasonal jobs.

The National Tennis Center and US Open means jobs, and for that reason, among many others, I hope you can approve the plan.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm happy to answer any questions from the committee.



Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Flushing, New York 11368
Tel (718) 760-6200 Fax (718) 592 9488
www.ntc.usta.com

Testimony By: Marty Weinstein, Part-Time Employee at the National Tennis Center

Good Afternoon members of the City Council, my name is Marty Weinstein and I am a part time employee at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis. I live in Rockaway Beach, and I'm pleased to be here to pledge my support for the USTA's expansion plan for the NTC.

Prior to my employment at the National Tennis Center, I served for 34 years in the NYC Department of Education in various capacities, from classroom teacher, to Principal of PS 106 in Far Rockaway, and prior to my retirement, as Deputy Superintendent of Community School District 27 in Queens.

The USTA National Tennis Center has tasked me with ensuring that a program that provides new learning experiences and beneficial physical activities is being continually and consistently afforded to NYC school children. We accomplish this by means of our Project ACES program whereby we provide children with a trip to the NTC. The majority of students/staff/parents have never been to our site, which is open to the public, or have ever attempted to play tennis. The trip includes an educational aspect where students learn about the game of tennis and some of its notable players, including Arthur Ashe and Billie Jean King, and a physical education aspect where they receive on court tennis instruction from our teaching pros. Since its inception in 3 years ago, we have hosted in excess of 4000 students from hundreds of schools. The students, staff and parents who participated have wholeheartedly and enthusiastically indicated "*IT WAS THE BEST TRIP EVER!!*" We have also received written responses from students that are both heartfelt and touching; one child wrote that she thought she could never do anything until she was able to hit a tennis ball, and now she's going to try her best in school as well.

Part of my previous life's work was to assess and evaluate NYC Public Schools, their staffs and leadership towards ensuring effective learning environments were in place for children. I know what works and doesn't. The USTA's commitment to community outreach through its Project ACES program works. By and through your support of the USTA NTC we can not only maintain but enhance this, and other future community based programs.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm happy to answer any questions from the Council.



Sheraton

I am writing to urge your support for the United States Tennis Association's plans to renovate the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. This proposed project holds special significance to the Queens business community, and is especially vital when you consider that the US Open generates nearly \$750 million a year in economic activity for the city. Much of this money is spent on hotels, restaurants, entertainment, and other purchases by the more than 700,000 spectators who descend upon Queens during the two week tournament.

As the General Manager of the Sheraton LaGuardia East Hotel located in Flushing, I see firsthand the positive financial impact the US Open has on the local hospitality industry. Indeed, our hotel and others in the community are booked solid during the two weeks of the tournament, during a time that would otherwise be slow if not for the US Open. In truth, the tournament generates nearly 2,600 room nights for Queens hotels during these two weeks.

We also see an impact throughout the year, and that's because the National Tennis Center hosts countless tournaments that bring competing teams from all over the country to Queens to patronize our businesses. The visiting tennis teams and their families stay at hotels in Corona, Flushing, East Elmhurst and elsewhere, dine at local restaurants, and shop at local businesses. Without question, it's a winning situation for everyone.

It should also be noted that the proposed National Tennis Center project will increase the capacity of the NTC site to allow for an additional 10,000 daily spectators during the US Open, which means more patrons and more revenue for businesses in Queens.

Your support on this project would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ed Staniszewski
General Manager

ED
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General Manager
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City Council's subcommittee on Planning Dispositions and Concessions
USTA ULURP
June 20, 2013

Testimony By: Tommy Casino, ADCO Electrician, Local #3

Good afternoon members of the City Council. My name is Tommy Casino and I'm an Electrician with Local Union #3. I've been doing work at the National Tennis Center (NTC) in Flushing Meadows Corona Park for the past 13 years. I am pleased to be here in support of the USTA's plan to improve and expand the NTC.

We live in a tough economy so I'm grateful for the regular work I get at the NTC, which has a long history of hiring local union workers. The NTC is a key source of income for not only myself, but numerous union workers. Indeed, the NTC means union jobs, and the proposed project would result in additional work for union workers.

I can tell you that my sentiments are echoed by countless union workers.

I urge you to support this plan.

I thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions from the Council.

FOR THE RECORD

Deborah Antoine, Ph.D.
President and CEO
New York Junior Tennis and Learning
June 20, 2013

Good Morning.

As President and CEO of New York Junior Tennis & Learning, I join with others here to speak about the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center and what it means to me and to the many thousands of children we serve.

NYJTL provides a much needed not-for-profit resource for the children of New York City, offering healthy, engaging and free activities in safe and nurturing environments after every school day, on weekends, and throughout the summer. By integrating quality tennis, education and character development, NYJTL teaches youth discipline, good sportsmanship, team play and competition. We also stem the tide of childhood obesity by keeping children moving and having fun.

Through the years, the USTA has always recognized and understood the importance of these values and the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center has been a fantastic resource in supporting our mission.

As a Doctor of Education, I surely see the positive changes in children when they engage in meaningful activities and aspire to personal achievement and academic success.

The site of the US Open is where NYJTL sponsors the Mayors Cup-the largest All-Scholastic Tennis Tournament in the Nation. More than 600 players from Public, Private and Parochial schools and all walks of life take part in this tournament. Only two weeks ago, on Sunday, June 9th

all these fine student athletes gathered to compete in the Mayor's Cup Finals and take part in an award ceremony celebrating not only their achievements on court but their academic achievements as well.


Alongside them were over 750 participants from our Community and OST programs enjoying a fun filled day complete with a tennis festival and parade!

The site of the US Open is where NYJTL runs its Early Morning Program---on Saturday and Sunday mornings beginning at 6 am. Now that is dedication! This programming is FREE for any child 5-18 who wishes to enroll. And more than 400 young people participated this past year.

The site of the US Open is where NYJTL operates its Schoolyard Tennis Program. This program has an amazing multiplier effect by providing public school teachers with rigorous training throughout the academic year to then offer tennis to their students; most of whom would not have the opportunity to learn tennis otherwise.

The site of the US Open, this place of Legends, is also where our Advanced Training Program practices every school day. And it is the venue for numerous other opportunities...including "Say NO to Drugs" Day, Tournaments, Play Days, and Tennis Festivals, and Educational Programming, including most recently a 10-week workshop in SAT preparation.

There is no doubt that the USTA BJK NTC has had and continues to have a dramatically positive impact on children and families. And I am confident that improvements to the Center will even further enhance the lives of many more children to come.

nyjtl 
Mayor's Cup
All-Scholastic Tennis Championships
New York Junior Tennis & Learning



NYJTL's Mayor's Cup Finals, Award Ceremony & Disney Kids Around the World Parade – June 9, 2013
USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center – Flushing Meadows 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: Jonathan Goukong

Address: _____

I represent: City Parks Foundation

Address: Flushing Meadows Coopers 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: SRINIVAS MAHAJAKALI

Address: 5617 217th St Fl 2 Bayside Hills NY

I represent: SIF

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Will Sweeney

Address: 3526 79th St Jackson Heights

I represent: Jackson Heights Green Alliance

Address: P.O. Box 538 JH, NY 11372

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: Jeffrey C. Plot

Address: _____

I represent: NYC Park Advocates

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. LU 852

in favor in opposition

Date: June 20, 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CARLOS AGUIRRE

Address: _____

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: 92-10 Roosevelt Ave Elmhurst Queens 11371

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. LU 852

in favor in opposition

Date: 06-20-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Felipe Idrovo

Address: Queens, NY

I represent: Make the Road NY

Address: 92-10 Roosevelt Ave Queens

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

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

LU 852

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. LU No 852

in favor in opposition

Date: 06-20-2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Yvette Ramirez LU 852

Address: 92-11 55 Ave Elmhurst NY 11373

I represent: North 74 Road M

Address: 92-10 Roosevelt Ave Elmhurst Queens

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

LU 852

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Giordana A. Reid, District Manager

Address: 82-11 37 Ave, Suite 606, JTB, NY 11372

I represent: Community Board 3, Queens

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

USTA UWER Date: 6/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dorothy Jowandowski

Address: Queens Parks Commissioner

I represent: Parks Dept.

Address: _____

19

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: 6-20-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: EDWIN WESTHEY

Address: 35-11 85th St, JH, N.Y. 11372

I represent: Johnston's Beautification Group

Address: _____

20

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Holly Leicht

Address: 55 Broad St. 23rd Fl 10004

I represent: New Yorkers for Parks

Address: _____

THE COUNCIL THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

USTA

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/20/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jon Torodash

Address: 12325 82nd Ave #5T 11415

I represent: triumphofcivicvirtue.org, Torodash For Truth

Address: _____

①

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

USTA

Appearance Card

LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Gordon Smith

Address: _____

I represent: USTA

Address: _____

②

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

USTA

Appearance Card

LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 6/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeanne Ashe

Address: _____

I represent: USTA

Address: _____

③

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

USTA

Appearance Card

LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kathina Adams

Address: _____

I represent: Harlem Junior Tennis

Address: _____

④
③

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Jonathan Garberg

Address: _____

I represent: City Parks Foundation

Address: _____

⑤

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Jim Carlson

Address: _____

I represent: MJI

Address: _____

⑥

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Scott Daly

Address: _____

I represent: NY Junior Tennis League

Address: _____

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THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Rob Mackay

Address:

I represent: QEDC

Address:

8

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Eric Abrams

Address:

I represent: Queens Chamber

Address:

9

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Srinivas Mahankali

Address:

I represent: USTA - Parent of kid player

Address: (National Spelling Bee Champion)

10

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card

LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Vishnu Mahadeo

Address: _____

I represent: USTA - Seasonal Employee

Address: _____

11

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card

LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Tommy Casino

Address: _____

I represent: ADCO

Address: _____

12

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card

LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Wilfred Mahadeo

Address: _____

I represent: USTA - Seasonal Employee

Address: _____

13

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Eric Rebhuhn

Address:

I represent: St. Johns

Address:

14

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Ed Staniszewski

Address:

I represent: Sheraton Hotel

Address:

15

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013
 in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Marty Weinstein

Address:

I represent: USTA - PT Staff

Address:

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THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Mike Littman

Address:

I represent: USTA - PT Staff

Address:

17

THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Harvi Chatterpaul Dunkran

Address:

I represent: USTA - Seasonal Employee

Address:

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THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

USTA

Appearance Card LU

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 852 Res. No. 2013

in favor in opposition

Date: 06/20/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Luis Marcial

Address:

I represent: USTA - staff (FT)

Address: