



# City of New York Parks & Recreation



Hearing before the City Council  
Subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Siting and Maritime Uses

Landmarks, High Line rail structure and easements (C100180PCM)

July 27, 2010

Testimony by  
Michael Bradley  
Project Administrator

Good morning, Mister Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Michael Bradley and I am the High Line Project Administrator for New York City Parks & Recreation. I'm here to briefly outline the history and current status of the High Line, and describe the action before you today, to authorize the City's acquisition of the remaining portion of the High Line not yet owned by the City.

As you know, the High Line is a former elevated rail freight track in the meat market and West Chelsea neighborhoods, which the City is converting into a public park. It was originally constructed by the New York Central Rail Road in the 1930's to remove freight train traffic from the city streets below; the last train ran in the early 1980's.

In 2002, after Mayor Bloomberg was first elected, he reversed City policy allowing the High Line's demolition and instead backed a plan to convert it into a park. In 2005, the City acquired the 1-mile portion of the High Line from Gansevoort to West 30<sup>th</sup> Street from the Central's successor, CSX Transportation, as part of the federal rails-to-trails program. In 2006 Parks and the Economic Development Corporation began construction of the first segment of this new park, one-half mile from Gansevoort to 20<sup>th</sup> Street. The park opened to the public in June 2009, and has since been visited by over 2 million people, from around the corner and around the world. The park is operated and immaculately maintained by Friends of the High Line under a license agreement with the Parks Department, under overall Parks supervision and with Parks responsible for security and long-term maintenance.

**The second half-mile section, from 20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Street, is under construction and will open next spring.**

**We consider the High Line to be an unqualified success both as a beautiful, signature open space unlike anything else in the country, and as part of a sustainable, integrated urban policy that has adaptively reused an abandoned historic structure to revitalize and knit together the lower West Side.**

**The final half-mile of the High Line, from West 30<sup>th</sup> to 34<sup>th</sup> Street, was not acquired in the original 2005 action because at that time the zoning and reuse of the Hudson Rail Yards from 30<sup>th</sup> to 33<sup>rd</sup> Street was still undetermined. Now that the rail yards have been rezoned and a contract has been executed between the MTA and the developer The Related Companies, the City is now able to proceed with ULURP for site selection of the High Line. This action is only a first step but is a necessary precondition to allow the City to acquire this last section of the High Line from CSX. Once this ULURP is approved, the City will be able to negotiate this acquisition with CSX, the MTA, and Related, and with the New York Convention Center Corporation, which owns the underlying land in the last block, from 33<sup>rd</sup> to 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Should this negotiation be successfully concluded, the City would then need to identify funds for the design and construction of this section and go through public reviews and approvals for the park's design, as well as coordinate the design and construction with adjacent development. We have no current timetable for this process.**

**Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.**

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

LU151

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LU151 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: July 27, 2010

Name: JAN LEVY (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 115 C P C W

I represent: myself

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. L.U. 151 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: 7/27/10

Name: JANE COWAN (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 2003 KIMBALL ST. B'KLYN 11234

I represent: myself

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Edward S. Kirkland (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 300 West 23rd St. #16A New York, NY 10011

I represent: Manhattan Community Board

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: 7/27/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MICHAEL BRODLEY

Address: ~~DELAND~~ ARSENAL, CENTRAL PARK

I represent: NYC PARKS & RECREATION

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

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NOT SPEAKING

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LOIS ROOS

Address: 150 W 55TH ST

I represent: HIGH LINE

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

NOT SPEAKING

Appearance Card

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in favor  in opposition

High Line

Date: July 27, 2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: LEE C VARIAN

Address: 38 GORDON WAY

I represent: Friends of the High Line

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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in favor  in opposition

NOT Speaking

Date: 7-27-10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Hysheem Calier

Address: 428 west 26 street

I represent: Highline

Address: 529 west 20 street

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Spring Mills

Date: 7/27/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: 1 Centre St.

I represent: LPC

Address: 11

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 44 Res. No. 151

in favor  in opposition

Date: 7/27/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Suzanne Davis

Address: 62 W 62 ST #26A NYC 10023

I represent: Friends of High Line

Address: NOT SPEAKING

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**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 151

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SCOTT GALLO

Address: 298 BEDFORD AVE APT 2

I represent: FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE <sup>Brooklyn, NY</sup> 11217

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

NOT SPEAKING

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

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in favor  in opposition  
NOT SPEAKING

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kylaiah Bonebrake

Address: 443 W 25TH ST APT 4D NY, NY 10001

I represent: Highline

Address: 529 W 20th St

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: JULY 27, 2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: EILEEN SULLIVAN

Address: 22 IRVING PLACE NY 10003

I represent: HIGH LINE - IN FAVOR

Address: NOT SPEAKING

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 151

in favor  in opposition

Date: 7/27/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PETE MULLAN

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

Address: 529 W 20th St. NYC 10011

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

[ ]

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 151 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 7/27/2010

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PETER DAVIES

Address: 548 BROADWAY SA NY 10012

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: JOSHUA DAVID

Address: 329 W. 20th St. 8W

I represent: FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

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: 11/7/10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jenny Fernandez

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: LPC

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL** *NOT SPEAKING*  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LU151 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 7-27-10

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: WALLY REINHARDT *10025*

Address: 784 COLUMBUS AVE. #12C

I represent: MYSELF

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE COUNCIL**  
**THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. LU151 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KAREN JACOB

Address: 439 W 22 ST

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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