



**Hearing before the New York City Council
Committee on State and Federal Legislation
Preconsidered T2016-4231: Christopher Park
March 22, 2016**

Testimony By: Matt Drury, Director of Government Relations, NYC Parks

Good morning, Chair Koslowitz and members of the Committee on State and Federal Legislation. My name is Matt Drury, Director of Government Relations for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Thank you for inviting me to testify in support of the Council's Home Rule message in support of A9454 and S6891, legislation that would authorize the transfer of Christopher Park to the United States federal government.

Christopher Park and the surrounding vicinity, located in Greenwich Village in Manhattan, is recognized by many as the birthplace of the modern LGBT civil rights movement. As such, local and national advocates have joined with elected officials in support of the creation of a national park site, to commemorate its special place in the history of human and civil rights.

National Parks and Monuments can be created by Presidential designation under the provisions of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Antiquities Act allows the President to establish national monuments from existing federal lands, meaning that a piece of real property needs to be under the jurisdiction of the federal government before any such designation can be made. As such, NYC Parks supports the necessary actions which will facilitate the designation, in this instance, state legislation to authorize the park's jurisdictional transfer to the National Parks Service.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you this morning.

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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