

# Committee on Parks and Recreation

Date	6-12-08
Start Time	
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# City of New York Parks & Recreation



## New York City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation

### Introduction 699A (provision of an annual report on funding for New York City parks)

June 12, 2008

Testimony by  
Michael Schnell, Director of Government Relations

Introduction Number 699A requires the administration to submit an annual report listing funding and goods donated to the Department, as well as funds and goods spent and donated by our partner groups. The report targets donations of funds and goods, greater than \$5,000 in value, going directly to the Department, as well as a detailed report on groups already reporting to the Internal Revenue Service who have annual gross revenue of \$25,000 or greater. The first report on Fiscal Year 2009 is due December 1, 2009.

We support this legislation and appreciate the Council's work to draft a bill that solved the many challenges of the original draft: (1) moving the reporting timeline to begin in calendar year 2009, thus allowing our staff adequate time to compile the necessary information for a more complete and cohesive report; (2) establishing a simpler and clearer reporting requirement on the delineation of funds and goods going to boroughs, and where possible, details on specific parks; (3) removing the requirement of quantifying volunteer hours; and (4) creating two separate reporting thresholds in line with information already accessible to the Department.

Again, we thank Chair Foster for her consistent advocacy for our parks, and thank her for a bill which will serve to protect and enhance the funding allocated to our parks by this and future mayoral administrations.