

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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March 3, 2009  
Start: 12:54pm  
Recess: 12:57pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers  
City Hall

B E F O R E:  
HELEN D. FOSTER  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
Alan J. Gerson  
Helen Sears  
Letitia James

## A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

John Heyer  
Representative  
Society of the Citizens of Pozzallo

CHAIRPERSON FOSTER: Good

afternoon, I'm Councilmember Helen Diane Foster, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee. We are having a hearing, we're voting on--oh, we're not? Okay, we are having a hearing on proposed intro 931-A. We will actually vote on the 11<sup>th</sup> before the stated. It is the amendment to 931, is that instead of Count--excuse me, Count Basie Place, which is now located between Edgecombe Avenue and St. Nicholas on West 160<sup>th</sup> Street, it will now be known as Constance Bakely, Baker Motley Place, and it will replace Count Basie Place. And it's gone through the community board and we will vote on that on Tuesday. And I believe John Heyer, and you will be speaking on the street renaming? Okay, please have a seat. [pause] Okay. You may get started. Say your name for the record, please.

JOHN HEYER: Very good, okay, good.

John Heyer, representing the Society of the Citizens of Pozzallo. And we are here, along with the President of the Society, as well as a few members of the community. Community member Buddy Scotto as well as a few business leaders, to just

1  
2 introduce and show our support for the co-naming  
3 of Henry Street, between Sacket and Union Streets,  
4 in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, to the Citizens of  
5 the People of Pozzallo. The reason for this is,  
6 not so much to talk about the citizens that are  
7 currently in this, the town of Pozzallo, but more  
8 so the people that have immigrated to Brooklyn, as  
9 well as all of New York City and the country, in  
10 order to show a heritage link in the community,  
11 which has gone through some change, but also  
12 remains a staple of the Citizens of Pozzallo,  
13 since their society, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3)  
14 organization, is currently home there, and has  
15 been home there since 1919. Now, among the people  
16 that we distinguish in our proposal, which I will  
17 definitely give to you, are people that were  
18 September 11<sup>th</sup> victims, that were heroic people  
19 that were firefighters. We also have people that  
20 were heroic in World War II, naval officers. We  
21 go all the way down to people like Santo  
22 Matarazzo, who was a gentleman from the  
23 neighborhood, who helped revive the restoration of  
24 brownstones. He was a plasterer, a sculptor, and  
25 even sculpted a few items that are found today in

1  
2 Ellis Island, as well as other parts throughout  
3 the city. So we really have a full range of  
4 different types of people that could all be  
5 brought under the auspices of the Citizens of  
6 Pozzallo. And so in order to distinguish and  
7 recognize each one of them, while not picking one  
8 over the other, we thought that it would be  
9 fitting to instead recognize the citizens of  
10 Pozzallo as a whole. And so for that, we would  
11 like to say thank you. We also have the  
12 recommendation or the support of the community  
13 board, Community Board Six, as well as  
14 Councilmember De Blasio, and the borough  
15 president's office, as well. So, based on that,  
16 if you have questions, thank you; if not, we  
17 appreciate it.

18 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Thank you very  
19 much. And as I said, we'll be voting on this on  
20 the 11<sup>th</sup> and thank you for taking the time to come  
21 out and talk about the rich history. There being  
22 no more testimony--There's one more. No, that's  
23 for the 1:00 o'clock portion of it. Thank you.  
24 There being no more testimony, Parks and  
25 Recreation, this section of it, is closed, and we

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will re-adjourn for the joint committee meeting at

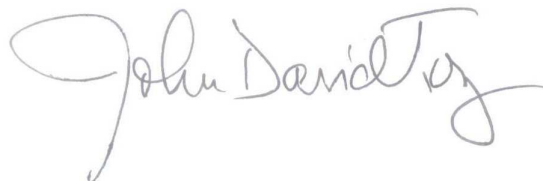
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1:00 o'clock. Thank you.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, JOHN DAVID TONG certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John David Tong". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date MARCH 18, 2009