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April 12, 2021

To: New York City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation
Re: Int. No. 1888

The Parks Department has long treated the Boardwalk as an unloved stepchild. It consistently underfunded or did not fund it at all, letting it decay, then patching it up in quick and awful ways. It hasn't taken the single most rudimentary step to prevent damage – keeping heavy motorized vehicles off. Nor have they insisted the police do so too.

Forfeiting responsibility whenever possible, Parks has turned New York's outdoor spaces over to private groups for routine upkeep. This abdication of its mission to maintain our outdoor heritage has long been a disgrace and a scandal.

Any thinking person has no trouble understanding the simple premise that heavy vehicles on a wooden structure cause damage. It is Kafkaesque to think legislation is needed to restrain them. Yet, that is what is happening here. Both Parks and Police must be restrained from driving heavy vehicles on this wooden structure and no one else should ever be driving on it.

Years ago, when I served as the State Assemblywoman representing Brighton Beach and Coney Island, for a short time the 60 precinct kept their heavy vehicles off the Boardwalk. I arranged for state grants to provide light weight vehicles which the precinct used on the Boardwalk because there is absolutely no need for full size vehicles and SUV's ever to be on it. The fate of the historic and landmarked Riegelmann Boardwalk should not have to rely on the commitment and largesse of an ever-changing set of local elected officials.

Therefore, I support Councilman Treyger's bill Int. No. 1888 and hope that once and for all the Boardwalk will be treated by Parks and Police with the respect it deserves.

Respectfully submitted,



Former Assemblywoman, 46th District

April 12, 2021

To the New York City Council, Committee on Parks and Recreation

RE: Int 1888-2020

I am writing in support of City Council Member Mark Treyger's bill to limit the size of vehicles on the Coney Island Boardwalk. The trucks and other vehicles used by the NYC Parks Department and Police Department have caused serious damage and created an extremely dangerous situation for anyone walking on the structure. Delivery trucks must also be banned.

The Boardwalk is not designed to handle the weight of heavy vehicles speeding along its surface. The damage caused by the vehicles sometimes takes years to repair and many people have been injured, some seriously. There are alternatives to the vehicles currently driving around on the Boardwalk. The heavy vehicles are a serious liability to the community and anyone who uses the Boardwalk.

The Boardwalk is a world-famous New York City landmark and should be treated with respect. The heavy vehicles cause an ever spiraling need for expensive repairs. The vehicles should be banned!

Thank you,

Charles Denson

Executive Director
Coney Island History Project

www.coneyislandhistory.org

Support for Intro 1888-2020

Hello City Council Members,

I testified in person on Monday. I am writing to reiterate my enthusiastic support for Council Member Treyger's bill to ban heavy vehicles from driving on boardwalks. Boardwalks were not designed for vehicles. They were designed for people! Heavy vehicles are dangerous, and they destroy boardwalks with their wear and tear.

As Council Member Treyger so eloquently put it, "We could all benefit from a clarification of the rules," so that residents and visitors know how to follow the rules, and officials know how to enforce the rules when they are broken. Right now, there is little to no enforcement, with only two summonses issued in the past year. This is unacceptable. The City Council should not wait for a pedestrian to get killed by a car or motorcycle, or for a jogger to get seriously injured by falling through a missing board. We need to take action now!

Council Member Treyger also made a wonderful point that it is the government's job to help redistribute resources in an equitable manner--to help fight inequality rather than reinforce it. For too long, the Parks Department has been asked to maintain the Riegelmann Boardwalk--a beautiful, 2.7 mile landmarked treasure--with far too few resources and not enough manpower. I was shocked to learn that there are no full-time year-round carpenters assigned to maintain the Riegelmann Boardwalk, and that the Parks Department doesn't have enough of the affordable, lightweight vehicles it needs to do its work in a way that will protect this amazing structure. Coney Island is truly the "people's playground" for local New Yorkers, Coney Island residents, and tourists alike. It should not be too difficult for one of the greatest cities in the world to allocate its resources to properly care for its beloved Boardwalk.

For almost ten years, I have been involved in the fight to save the Riegelmann Boardwalk from being destroyed and paved over with concrete. In the course of my research, I have spoken with officials in other cities where wood boardwalks are lovingly maintained. In Ocean City, Maryland, they actually changed their boardwalk to concrete, then back to wood because they found wood more aesthetically pleasing, practically useful, and economically beneficial. They are extremely careful with their Boardwalk and do not allow vehicles to drive on it even for trash collection. The trash collection vehicles there drive in the sand alongside the Boardwalk and use a long mechanical arm to pick up and empty the trash cans. Their Boardwalk is similar in length and use to ours. If they can take care of their Boardwalk, so can we!

I want to close by saying how universally beloved the Riegelmann Boardwalk is. When I walked up and down the Boardwalk, weekend after weekend, collecting petition signatures to help save it, I met international tourists, Brooklyn hipsters, Russian locals, joggers, dancers, children, and parents, and they all talked about how much they loved the Boardwalk. Most thought it was already landmarked (it was not at the time). Many of the tourists had specifically put the Boardwalk at the top of their list of places to visit. All of them were shocked that the city was even thinking about replacing the wood with concrete.

The Landmarks Commission chose to landmark a boardwalk, not a sidewalk. I urge the City Council to do everything in your power to help maintain and care for this one-of-a-kind treasure. Give the Boardwalk back to the people!

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christianna Nelson

Vice President, Coney-Brighton Boardwalk Alliance

(917) 751-0913

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1888

By Angela Kravtchenko (angelakravtchenko@gmail.com)

APRIL 15, 2021

Good afternoon!

My name is Angela Kravtchenko and I am a Coney Island resident for over 20 years. Boardwalk is a route for my daily runs and I can observe its decline. Main damage is done by vehicular traffic.

“The historic Riegelmann Boardwalk in Coney Island is not the Belt Parkway. It is an iconic American place of leisure and recreation – it was not designed as a roadway for utility vehicles,” said Treyger and I support his statement.

Boardwalk was designed for pedestrians, let's keep it that way. Ban cars from the Boardwalk. Provide necessary repairs and keep Coney Island safe for walking, running and skating. Millions of people will visit us this year, let's welcome them with the fixed boards on our historical boardwalk.

Sincerely,
Angela Kravtchenko, AIA

Coney Island is not only a Brooklyn cultural site, the Riegelmann Boardwalk is a National treasure. People from all over the world come to Coney Island and walk the historic Boardwalk. For many years the people of Coney Island have tried to protect the Boardwalk, but its physical condition is in a state of disrepair. The boards are coming up, nails are sticking out and the City is unable to keep up with the necessary repairs. The main cause of the problem is vehicles riding on the Boardwalk and the damage they are doing. For years I have been working and fighting to prohibit vehicles from riding on the Boardwalk but to no avail. The damage has continued. People have been seriously injured falling over the nails that are sticking up. A friend of mine has been badly injured from such a fall and is still incapacitated. This law will finally stop the chief cause of the damage and perhaps the City will then be able to fix our National treasure.

Barbara Teitelbaum

Community Activist

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF INTRO 1888
SUBMITTED BY CRAIG HAMMERMAN (craighammerman@gmail.com)

APRIL 12, 2021

GOOD AFTERNOON

MY NAME IS CRAIG HAMMERMAN AND I AM HERE TO SPEAK IN ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT OF INTRO 1888, A BILL INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARK TREYGER THAT WOULD BAN THE DRIVING OF HEAVY VEHICLES ON BOARDWALKS IN NEW YORK CITY.

IT'S REALLY HARD TO FATHOM THAT DRIVING ON A BOARDWALK WAS LEGAL IN THE FIRST PLACE. A BOARDWALK, LIKE A SIDEWALK, IS INTENDED FOR USE BY PEDESTRIANS. ONE WOULD THINK THAT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS. APPARENTLY, IT ISN'T TO ALL DRIVERS. THESE ARE THE DAYS WE'RE LIVING IN. WHERE AGGRESSIVE DRIVING CONTINUES TO UNABASHEDLY BULLY ITS WAY INTO BECOMING NORMATIVE BEHAVIOR. WE CAN DO BETTER.

BOARDWALKS HAVE BEEN AROUND LONG BEFORE THERE WERE VEHICLES DRIVING ON THEM. THE FIRST BOARDWALK IN THE UNITED STATES OPENED IN 1870 IN ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY; IT WASN'T UNTIL 1885 THAT THE FIRST GAS-POWERED CAR WAS INVENTED IN MANNHEIM, GERMANY. ARGUABLY, NO VEHICLE EVER NEEDS TO BE DRIVEN ON A BOARDWALK. AND ANY VEHICLE THAT DOES CREATES A VEHICULAR-PEDESTRIAN CONFLICT. WHEN HAVE WE EVER SEEN A PEDESTRIAN EMERGE VICTORIOUS IN THE FACT OF SUCH A CONFLICT? IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BANNING VEHICLES FROM THE BOARDWALK IS SIMPLY THE RIGHT THING TO DO. IT IS THE SAFEST OPTION.

RECOGNIZING THAT THE MAJORITY OF VEHICLES DRIVEN ON THE BOARDWALK BELONG TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION IT IS PRETTY CLEAR TO ME AND OTHERS THAT THIS

LEGISLATION WILL NOT HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT OF REMOVING ALL VEHICULAR PRESENCE FROM THE BOARDWALK. BUT IT'S AN IMPORTANT FIRST STEP. BECAUSE WITHOUT THIS LAW, IT WOULD NOT BE ILLEGAL TO DRIVE ON THE BOARDWALK. AND THAT MUST CHANGE.

THE SOUTHERN BROOKLYN COMMUNITY HAS MADE EFFORTS TO WORK WITH POLICE AND PARKS TO BRING THE NUMBER OF HEAVY VEHICLES DOWN. PARKS DEPARTMENT LACKS THE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY TO KEEP THE BOARDWALK FREE FROM THE TRIP HAZARDS THAT DRIVING ON THE BOARDWALK CAUSES. PARKS HAS SOME MOTIVATION BECAUSE OF THE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE THAT DRIVING HEAVY VEHICLES DOES TO THE BOARDWALK. AS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, WE IN THE COMMUNITY NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB ADVOCATING FOR LIGHTER EQUIPMENT—LIKE BICYCLES, SEGWAYS AND GATORS—TO GIVE OUR PRECINCT THE RIGHT TOOLS THEY NEED TO EFFECTIVELY PATROL THE BOARDWALK.

THIS BILL WILL NOT SOLVE OUR PROBLEM WITH HEAVY VEHICLES DRIVING ON THE BOARDWALK. IT WILL STILL HAPPEN EVEN WITH THE PASSAGE OF THIS LAW. WHAT IT WILL DO, HOWEVER, IS IT WILL ESTABLISH THAT DRIVING ON THE BOARDWALK IS ILLEGAL. I ASK YOU ALL TO HELP US TAKE THIS IMPORTANT FIRST STEP TOGETHER TOWARD IMPROVING PUBLIC SAFETY BY PRESERVING BOARDWALKS AS ONE OF THE LAST PEDESTRIAN REFUGES IN THE CITY. WE DO APPRECIATE YOUR CARE AND SUPPORT IN THAT REGARD.

THANK YOU.

Testimony on Int. No. 1888: Proposed law prohibiting vehicles on the Boardwalk

Dear Committee on Parks and Recreation,

The Coney Island (Riegelmann) Boardwalk is a cherished part of our neighborhood. We have always wanted to protect it, but now that it is landmarked we *must protect it*. This testimony is with regard to [Int. No. 1888](#), A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to prohibiting vehicles on boardwalks.

The reason for any significant damage to the Boardwalk that we currently see is clear: heavy vehicles are allowed to zoom up and down on a pedestrian walkway. This is not only damaging to our beloved wooden Boardwalk, but also dangerous for the pedestrians using it. It is beyond obvious that the Boardwalk cannot withstand these multi-ton vehicles. It is the Parks Department's responsibility as the agency charged with protecting and preserving this landmark to maintain it by prohibiting these heavy vehicles. There is no reason that lighter vehicles could not be used to achieve the same purposes. All across the country, heavy vehicles are banned on wooden boardwalks and lighter vehicles are mandated. Why is your agency the exception? We must stop this willful destruction of our adored wooden Boardwalk and join the rest of the country in protecting it.

Please pass Councilman Mark Treyger's bill that all vehicles used on the Boardwalk by city agencies weigh no more than 2800 pounds, and that all motorized vehicles by anyone other than city agency employees at work be banned on the Boardwalk. This bill must be passed and enforced by local police.

Our Coney Island Boardwalk is a treasure to not only local residents but also people around the world who come to visit us. It must be protected as the landmark it is - a wonderful, beautiful, wooden Boardwalk. And to do that, you **MUST** pass Councilman Treyger's bill.

Thank you,
Jennifer Thorpe-Moscon
jen.s.thorpe@gmail.com
646-641-8046
2605 Bath Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11214

Int. No. 1888 testimony for Parks & Rec hearing 4/12/21

Dear Committee on Parks and Recreation,

I grew up in Brighton Beach, and the Riegelmann Boardwalk played an important part in my childhood, as it does now in the lives of all the community residents and (hopefully again soon) tourists. It is an iconic New York City structure. I am appalled by the attempts to convert it to a concrete walk, and I support the ban on heavy vehicles, and any other motorized vehicle except by city agency employees at work. The wooden Boardwalk must be preserved. Replacing wood with concrete in order to support the weight of heavy vehicles is a travesty. There is no reason why these heavy vehicles or other private motorized vehicles need to use the Boardwalk, which is for pedestrians' use and enjoyment. All other communities with wooden boardwalks use lightweight vehicles so that they don't damage their boardwalks. It's common sense, and this should be the policy here since all the damage to our Boardwalk is caused by the use of heavy vehicles running over the boards. Please vote to pass Int. No. 1888.

Respectfully,

Rena Rice

474 Second St.

Brooklyn, NY 11215

renar125@gmail.com

Save the Boardwalk!

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to in support of Mark Treyger's bill to the NY City Council in support of banning all vehicles on the Boardwalk that weigh more than 2800 pounds.
PLEASE save this wonderful Boardwalk!

Kind regards,

Roshni Jokhi

Coney Island boardwalk

Please pass intro 1888 into law. The big parks Department trucks are wearing down the boardwalk. *t takes long time before repairs are made. And it would be cheaper*

Sam Pozner

cotequisam@aol.com

Arlene Brenner
April 10, 2021

Prohibiting Vehicles on the Boardwalk (Int. No. 1888)

Let me say at the onset, it's understandable that folks want to ride their motorized transports on the boardwalk, and therein lies one of the problems.

The major problem, however is the heavy weight sanitation trucks. They should never be on the boardwalk. They rumble by popping nails out of the wood. That doesn't mean that concrete or plastic / concrete combination should replace wood. The concrete is horrific creating ice in the winter, absorbing and emitting heat in summer and painful to walk on for this largely senior community. And it's an invitation for more vehicles to ride on it. Remember this is an age-old formula to have wooden slats on the boardwalk.

Several years ago when my husband could drive, we went to Jones Beach. We noticed they had sanitation trucks were on the sand. The garbage cans were on wheels and were moved to the railing where the trucks had an extended arm similar to a forklift that grabbed the cans and emptied them onto the back of the truck. There were no sanitation trucks on their pristine boardwalk

Beyond that, there are a myriad of assorted vehicles that have made the boardwalk their Roadway. It was never meant to be a Roadway. The meager signs that Parks has put up to curb vehicular traffic, are barely noticeable, not put where they can be seen by the by the wheeled conveyances, and just not enforced beyond the first few days of warm weather.

We have witnessed:

* motorized bicycles as well as regular bikes. Often these are ridden in packs and go alarmingly fast nearly striking pedestrians and sometimes actually do. At the least their are quite startling to seniors and handicapped individuals. There are

also children playing ball, running and playing who are in danger. I myself have been victimized by an number of youth doing wheelies and skirting me on both sides.

- * motorized scooters zoom by
and becoming more and more brazen due to lack of enforcement
- * actual motor cycles speeding (We saw 3 today) and most alarming
- * actual automobiles (We saw 2 this week)
- * personal fast moving segways
- * other speeding new fangled transports I can't even identify.

When I come onto the boardwalk, I cannot just walk or head for a bench or mercy if I need to cross the boardwalk to the other side to gain access to the beach. First I need to stop, look both ways and be cautious for on coming traffic. After all, we don't have traffic lights on our Coney-Brighton now Roadway, no longer a Pedestrian Paradise.

Thank you for your consideration,

Arlene Brenner

Arlene

-----Original Message-----

From: citizen <atygh@yahoo.com>
To: Abb7yoga <abb7yoga@aol.com>
Sent: Tue, Apr 13, 2021 12:29 pm
Subject: boardwalk

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: citizen <atygh@yahoo.com>
To: Citizen Korel <atygh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 12, 2021, 7:56:16 PM EDT
Subject:



Ivy Jeanne '44