



# City of New York Parks & Recreation



## New York City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation

### Oversight: Update on Community Gardens

June 24, 2009

Testimony by  
Jack Linn  
Assistant Commissioner and Senior Counselor

### INTRODUCTION

During the nearly eight years of this Administration, the Parks Department, and its GreenThumb division, have been a strong and consistent partner supporter of community gardens.

There are about 700 community gardens located throughout the city, which serve nearly 50,000 New York City residents. After three decades, GreenThumb remains the nation's largest urban gardening program.

A community garden can be a critical setting for urban agriculture, allowing GreenThumb gardeners to grow fresh, healthy foods for the communities they serve. Or a garden can focus on producing beauty, instead of food. Either way, community gardens increase civic participation and spur neighborhood revitalization. Since 1978, GreenThumb gardeners have successfully transformed vacant, unattractive, and unsafe plots of public and private land throughout the five boroughs into thriving, blooming gardens.

The role of the community garden is particularly important in a city like New York. It's not uncommon that New Yorkers who live in apartments do not know their neighbors down the hall. Community gardens break down this anonymity: they serve as a common ground and meeting place. GreenThumb gardens have a track record of community involvement and accomplishment. All GreenThumb gardens are expected to provide public programming which brings together neighbors of all ages.

GreenThumb gardens also provide vital environmental and health benefits. Trees and plants reduce air pollution, lower energy costs, and help manage storm water. In fact, in some gardens we harvest rain water runoff from adjacent roofs. Gardens encourage an active lifestyle by providing easily accessible recreational opportunities.

The Department of Parks & Recreation is proud of what has been accomplished since 2002 to benefit GreenThumb gardens.

The most notable examples are:

The garden settlement of 2002, which resolved a dispute dating from the previous administration that attempted to sell off GreenThumb gardens;

The elimination of the requirement that GreenThumb gardeners pay for private liability insurance;

The substantial investment the City has made in new fences and new sidewalks for GreenThumb gardens; and

The installation of 42 rainwater harvesting systems in community gardens, through a partnership including the Council on the Environment, the Green Guerillas, the New York Restoration Project, the Trust for Public Land, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

So today we are pleased to participate in a discussion between members of the community gardening family – the gardeners, the City Council Members who support gardeners, and an Administration which supports gardeners.

## COMMUNITY GARDENING

In national polls, gardening ranks as one of the most popular leisure-time activities. Indeed, it has received an increase of positive attention through the garden planted by First Lady Michelle Obama on the White House Lawn.

The 700 community gardens in New York City are more than in any other city in the country. By comparison, the next largest program is in Philadelphia, where the Horticulture Society of Philadelphia manages about 300 gardens. Boston has more than 200 gardens, mostly managed through not-for-profit Land Trusts.

Just looking at numbers alone, GreenThumb's gardens are impressive:

- There are 10,486 names in its volunteer gardener database;
- In 2008, between March 15 and November 15 (the 32-week growing season), those gardeners logged over 1.35 million volunteer hours; and
- GreenThumb partners with many groups, both non-governmental organizations and government agencies, To name a few: Brooklyn Botanic Garden's GreenBridge; New York Botanical Garden's GreenUP; Council on the Environment of New York City; Just Food; GreenGuerillas; Manhattan Land Trust, Bronx Land Trust; Brooklyn-Queens Land Trust; Trust for Public Land; New York Restoration Project; New York Community Garden Coalition; MoreGardens!; Cornell Cooperative Extension; Cornell University Departments of Waste Management and Soil Sciences; the New York City Departments of Sanitation, Health and Mental Health, Environmental Protection, and Cultural Affairs; and the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets.

Along with the financial and infrastructural support it has provided these past 30 years, GreenThumb is ahead of the curve on smart environmental and social initiatives for land

management. Our focus on rainwater harvesting and water conservation, native plants, street tree stewardship, nutrition education, food security and healthy food access, youth education, composting, heirloom and non-genetically modified seeds are only a few of our initiatives over recent years that are now becoming mainstream.

The number I gave you as the total for community gardens in New York City was “about 700” because there are different types of community gardens in our city. For example:

- The New York City Housing Authority, for example, has 60 children’s gardens, with multiple participants, as well as 540 additional “gardens”, many of which I believe are tended by particular families and are more like the individual plots within traditional GreenThumb community gardens than they are like the GreenThumb gardens themselves, which typically contain 10 to 12 such plots. If my impression of the Housing Authority program is accurate, then they have the equivalent of perhaps 54 GreenThumb gardens in addition to the 60 children’s gardens, for a grand total of 114 of what I will call “garden equivalents.”
- There are 28 community gardens on private property, most of which are incorporated into Section 8 Housing Developments, with another 11 active gardens remaining in HPD’s jurisdiction and “Subject to Development.”
- This year GreenThumb provided gardening assistance to 115 school gardens on Department of Education property, and there are an additional 21 gardens at playgrounds that are jointly operated by DOE and Parks.
- There are 27 community gardens on the property of other agencies, including DCAS, DEP, DHS, DOT, HRA and the MTA.
- There are 62 community gardens which are now owned by land trusts created by the Trust for Public Land and there are 50 gardens owned by the New York Restoration Project. These are gardens which TPL and NYRP saved in 1998 by purchasing them from the City at auction.
- And then there are the 282 GreenThumb gardens on land under the jurisdiction of Parks.

GreenThumb offers cooperation and assistance to gardens in all of the categories enumerated above.

### **LOCATIONS OF PARKS GARDENS**

The 282 GreenThumb gardens on land under the jurisdiction of Parks & Recreation are nearly all located in three boroughs: the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan, concentrated in the South Bronx, North Brooklyn East New York, Lower East Side and Harlem.

Although Queens has very few community gardens, it does have the three largest:

The Kissena Corridor Park community garden is nearly 5 acres in size and has 170 individual plots; the Roy Wilkins Park community garden is nearly 4 acres in size, with 195 plots; and the

Floyd Bennett Field community garden, on land which is now part of Gateway National Recreation Area but which belonged to the City Parks Department until the fiscal crisis of the 1970s, is more than 3 acres and has 309 plots.

Staten Island has only two small gardens.

The geographic concentration of community gardens was produced by a combination of history and funding sources. GreenThumb was created in response to the City's fiscal crisis of the 1970s, when private owners stopped paying their property taxes and surrendered their land to the City, leaving the City with more land and yet fewer dollars with which to maintain it.

The majority of GreenThumb gardens were derelict vacant lots renovated by volunteers. These community gardens, now managed by neighborhood residents, can provide important green space and serve as important community resources.

GreenThumb gardens offer public programs that improve the quality of life for residents of all ages. So gardens may offer educational workshops, children's programs, food pantries, or community-building events like block parties. Active garden sites create a stable force in the community that serve as anchors for area re-development initiatives, while making the city safer, healthier, and cleaner.

The Bloomberg Administration is committed to the success of these gardens and has already taken several steps to ensure their success.

The Federal Community Development Program has been the primary funder of the Parks community gardens. Two years ago, Commissioner Benepe agreed to make the first City tax-levy dollars available to GreenThumb, since by then a few of our GreenThumb gardens were located in areas which were no longer eligible to receive Federal Community Development funds, because changing demographics had raised the median incomes of those areas.

During the 1990s, the City began selling off community gardens. But in 2002, an agreement was reached with the State Attorney General that enabled the City to proceed with plans for the construction of more than 3,000 units of affordable housing while preserving almost 200 GreenThumb gardens. It created a process to ensure that existing City-owned gardens are considered in land use decisions and that gardens on property being developed will be offered alternate gardening space, where available.

A major burden on community gardeners was relieved when in 2006, it was announced that gardeners would no longer be required to pay for private insurance, the cost of which had skyrocketed to more than \$400 a year, when it was still available at all.

The Parks Department has nearly completed an initiative to upgrade the physical conditions in community gardens. New fencing has been installed at 49 sites and sidewalk sections have been replaced at 45 sites, at a total cost of \$700,000.

We defend community gardens from being infringed upon when construction work is being done on adjacent properties. Parks has negotiated many settlements with contractors to protect and preserve the gardens in the best interest of the community.

## **REGISTRATION AND LICENSING PROCESS**

Under the provisions of the 2002 agreement, we register and license gardeners every two years. Groups send a representative to a GreenThumb registration session where they are given an orientation to the program's requirements, provided with information, and given assistance with filling out paperwork. Through registration and licensing, the City provides support to help strengthen gardens, strengthen gardener skills and strengthen communities. GreenThumb's services take the form of materials and technical assistance, including educational workshops.

First, a garden group must fill out a garden survey, and provide contact information, a membership procedure, and a membership list. The group must sign the GreenThumb registration agreement, committing the gardeners to following GreenThumb rules, which requires the posting of informational signage, and mandates that each garden be open for at least twenty hours per week to the public, and that a key be provided to the GreenThumb program office in case of emergency.

Next, the group leader must attend a garden registration session. These sessions include opportunities to meet fellow gardeners and GreenThumb staff, to learn about GreenThumb services, and to submit registration materials.

Lastly, licenses are issued to eligible gardens upon submission of completed registration materials. Gardens not on property under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department are not eligible for licenses, but must still complete the registration process in order to receive GreenThumb materials and services.

Moving forward, our plan is to extend the 2-year licenses which we have been executing this spring for another 2 years, meaning that they would all expire in the spring of 2013.

## **CONCLUSION**

Thanks to the labor of garden advocates, community gardening has come a long way in New York City from the days when it was officially classified as an "interim use" of City property. With increased focus and attention on the importance of gardening and sustainability, we must continually think about how to help community gardens to be vital neighborhood institutions now and for many years to come.

Although the popular image of New York City is that it is a place of steel and stone, it is also a place of tulips and turnips. Together, we can keep it that way.

**Good morning, I am Ursula Chanse, Director of Bronx Green-Up and Community Horticulture at The New York Botanical Garden. I am in support of Resolution No. 1890, which would map all GreenThumb community gardens in NYC as parkland, providing them with more protection for the future.**

Community gardens are at the heart of Bronx Green-Up (BGU), the community outreach program of The New York Botanical Garden. Formed in 1988, with much of the Bronx reeling after two decades of decline, Bronx Green-Up was established to join the momentum and passion of Bronx residents in creating beautiful green oases out of garbage-strewn vacant lots.

As every gardener knows, nurturing and caring for gardens is hard work. Bronx Green-Up continues to support community members in their volunteer efforts to provide long-term maintenance for these community green spaces. BGU provides horticultural advice, technical assistance and training, and seeds, bulbs, and plants. Each year Bronx Green-Up also offers a variety of horticulture workshops and four certificate programs in pruning, growing vegetables and composting for those with a deeper interest in horticulture. BGU also organizes community events, bringing gardeners together to network, share ideas, and celebrate.

Now more than ever green spaces are needed in the Bronx. Compared to the rest of New York City, much of the Bronx still faces environmental and public health challenges, including poor air quality and pollution as well as higher rates of food insecurity and chronic disease such as obesity, diabetes and asthma. The South Bronx has one of the highest asthma rates in the country. Increasingly, green spaces are becoming recognized as part of a comprehensive solution that addresses these disparities and builds more sustainable neighborhoods. Community gardens make vital contributions by providing areas of greenery and beauty and offering a mental respite from the surrounding buildings and concrete—all while plants clean the air.

Community gardens are key because they provide a place to grow fresh fruit and vegetables. Many neighborhoods in the Bronx have few or no supermarkets, making it difficult for people to have access to affordable, fresh produce. Community gardens have always served as a local source of fresh produce, providing nutrition to gardeners, their families, neighbors, and local food pantries. And community gardens are also leading the way by creating neighborhood farmer's markets, providing an even larger community with an opportunity to increase their fresh fruit and vegetable intake.

Hand in hand with nutrition, is physical activity in addressing obesity and related diseases. Gardening has long been a physical activity to promote one's health, and by providing a green space to walk too, especially in hot summer months, as well as safe places for children to actively learn in, community gardens are a rich resource.

Gardens also serve other critical roles in the neighborhood. They provide areas for adults to socialize and network, for everyone to learn about the environment and nutrition, a

place to celebrate and preserve culture, and to become more active and engaged in the community.

In addition to these vital functions that help to sustain and build a community, community gardens also serve as leaders in other sustainable practices. Many gardens incorporate rainwater harvesting systems, which collect rainwater and reduce stormwater run off, a critical environmental problem that the City continues to face.

In partnership with the City's Department of Sanitation, Bronx Green-Up promotes composting as an essential horticulture practice as well as a waste reduction strategy. Instead of becoming part of the garbage problem, with many difficulties and environmental and health consequences in transportation and disposal, organic waste can be turned into something valuable to enrich the soil naturally and locally. Community gardeners are leaders in composting, reducing garden and food waste that would otherwise be transported to a landfill, and teaching others in the community about this important environmental practice.

Community gardens, tucked away in many neighborhoods, are invaluable, unique resources. These gardens, sustained by volunteer efforts, often need additional support and resources to strengthen the infrastructure and programming opportunities that they provide. Increasing and protecting community gardens, when the opportunities arise, particularly, in areas with less open space, will aid the City's efforts in creating a healthier, greener and more sustainable city.

Thank you for your time.



24 June 2009

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Gary Altman, Legislative Council  
Council of the City of New York  
250 Broadway, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, 10007

Att: Community Garden Hearing – June 24

Dear City Council,

As the newly elected president of the New York Community Garden Coalition, I feel compelled to support legislation that will preserve, protect and create more community gardens and urban farms citywide.

As a community gardener/urban farmer for over 20 years, it seemed not too long ago that the city was plagued by vacant lots and empty buildings, mostly in low income neighborhoods. Those who could not move, stayed and turned those empty lots into community gardens.

Through hard work, pride and dedication, these gardens proved to be the community's answer against blight and decay.

Today community gardens reflect what is right about the city. Earlier this spring President Obama and Mayor Bloomberg launched a campaign for community service. Let it be known that community gardeners have always been at the fore front of community service. Volunteering their time and energy to make their neighborhoods safe and beautiful. Asking for nothing in return but the respect and acknowledgment that comes to those who have serve to make this city a better place to live in.

It has now been almost 10 years since the agreement between the gardeners and the city was written.

We as community gardeners are now looking ahead towards the future. We do not want to repeat the past. The scars of bulldozers, city auctions and unscrupulous developers still linger. We must find a way to preserve our community gardens for the next generation. We can all agree the importance of community gardens and urban farms. Our history tells us that many years ago most of New York City was farmland.

As people in urban areas start to question their food and energy source, along with the environmental consequences of global warming, We as community gardeners are making connections nationwide and globally.

Community gardens are becoming resource centers, tackling not only gardening issues but social issues such as housing, voting rights, open space, education, crime, immigration, the environment, health and nutrition.

We are not only community gardeners but leaders. We see ourselves sitting at the table with government, and non-profits on talks of food justice and injustice, food access and lack of. We find ourselves moving in a new direction of sustainability, urban agriculture, urban farms, cooperatives, social justice, farmers markets and farm stands. These words not even spoken 10 years ago are now commonplace.



As gardeners, we always knew the importance of growing our own, tasting the fruits of our labor, sharing with those who had none, knowing the correlation that to be healthy one must eat healthy.

But let us not forget that not all community gardens grow food, some are bird sanctuaries, meditation centers, flowers and rock gardens, yet what ties us together is community.

We must work together with our local government to be part of building a healthy food system.

With the health issues that are plaguing our cities, manifesting itself in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color; areas where many of our community gardens are located; we must be the ones sitting at the table of government and non-profits not only identifying the problems but being part of the solution.

We need to start looking at the next step for community gardens. In the beginning, community gardens were valued for beautification, but now community gardeners are being recognized as part of sustainable agriculture.

Farm Aid 2007 helped to spotlight community gardens as urban farms, which highlighted the need for sustainable agriculture and for NYC to look at ways of growing food.

But it was our First Lady Michele Obama's action of starting a community garden at the White House that made New York City's community gardens the source for urban agriculture at the grassroots level. Each week we are being highlighted in magazines, newspapers, and other media sources throughout the United States and internationally.

**We as New York City Community Gardeners are doing the following:**

- 1) We are now demonstrating strong leadership at the NYC CGC that has helped resurrected the state office of community gardens. Along with our yearly forums, we are bringing forth both transparency and accountability to those in charge.
- 2) We have community gardens now running farmers markets and farm stands so that monies made are reinvested into the community but more importantly, low income neighborhoods have access to local, fresh and affordable produce,
- 3) In the south Bronx a new coop has open, making partnerships with local farmers and community gardens to supply locally grown produce.
- 4) Community gardeners who are now chefs, educators, trainers, master composters, farmers and advocates
- 5) We are partnering with local bodegas, schools, restaurants, churches, food pantries and soup kitchens supplying them with locally grown produce,
- 6) This year New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets funded a community garden grant program
- 7) The Governor's chef, plans to outsource community garden produce for next year's State of the State dinner event
- 8) We are now seeing urban farms in Brooklyn and the Bronx
- 9) This year we are hosting in NYC the first Urban Farmy Olympics

Our expectation and hope is that community gardeners will have a larger representation when it comes to food and health issues in NYC. We hear so much about ways of growing food on rooftops and vertical buildings, how about promoting and supporting the 500 community gardens and urban farms that are already growing food.

We want to hear that the mayor's 2030 plan includes the increase of community gardens, land for urban farms and a community garden at Gracie Mansion,

I have given enough reasons on the importance of community gardens and why resolution 1890 mapping community gardens as parkland is needed. Let the next generation of gardeners look back on this day in history and proudly state: that it was the people who stood united, with government that preserve community gardens in New York City.

Sincerely,

Karen Washington  
President  
New York City Community Garden Coalition



**City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation  
Hearing on Res. No. 1809: Update on Community Gardens  
June 24, 2009**

My name is Sheelah Feinberg and I am Director of Government and External Relations at New Yorkers for Parks. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today. New Yorkers for Parks is the only independent watchdog for all the city's parks, beaches and playgrounds. For 100 years, we have worked to ensure greener, safer, cleaner parks for all New Yorkers.

We are here today in support of Resolution 1890, which would commence the process to change the official New York City Map to Designate Parks Department Green Thumb Community as City Parks. Approximately, 86 existing GreenThumb Community Gardens in 225 lots are under the jurisdiction of New York City Parks Department. A September 17, 2002 agreement between the City of New York and the State of New York established a protocol for preserving and developing City-Owned GreenThumb Community Gardens but these gardens were not designated as city parks.

We recommend that more community gardens are developed especially in neighborhood with less than 2.5 acres. Based on current trends, by 2030, 59 neighborhoods will have less than 1.5 acres of open space per 1,000 residents (PlanNYC, 2008). We encourage all new development to incorporate open space that meets the needs of the community.

GreenThumb has over 600 members' gardens and is the largest community gardening program in the country. All gardens are open to the public a minimum of 10 hours per week (GreenThumb, 2009).

Last month, New Yorkers for Parks released updated Council District profiles detailing parks and recreational spaces in each district. The following data comes from the City Council District Profiles 2009, which indicate the following about community gardens and open spaces in New York City:

CD 23 in Queens has NO Community Gardens.  
CDs 4, 5, 19, 22, 30, 43, 50 and 51 have only one Community Garden each.  
Council District Rankings in Open Space Provision:  
CD 4 (midtown Manhattan) ranks 51<sup>st</sup> in parkland per 1000 residents (the lowest)  
CD 5 (Upper East Side, Manhattan) ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in parkland per 1000 residents  
CD22 (Astoria, Queens) ranks 34<sup>th</sup> in parkland per 1000 residents  
CD43 (Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst, Brooklyn) ranks 43<sup>rd</sup> in parkland per 1000 residents



We support this resolution because it will solidify community gardens as park space that enhances neighborhoods, improves air quality, creates gathering spaces, provides local fruits and vegetables, and promotes an enhanced quality of life.

We applaud the gardeners and community volunteers for their continued engagement to strengthen community gardens. New Yorkers for Parks continues to support the City of New York and State of New York legislation that increases city parks and community gardens in neighborhoods. Thank you.

Citations:

*Open Space Report. (2008). Retrieved June 23, 2009, from PlanNYC 2030 Website:*  
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/planyc2030/html/plan/land.shtml>

*About GreenThumb. (2009). Retrieved June 19, 2009, from GreenThumb NYC Website:*  
<http://www.greenthumbnyc.org/about.html>

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## FOR THE RECORD

Testimony in support of City Council Resolution No. 1890

My name is Zack Schulman. I am a community organizer for Green Guerillas, an organization that has spent the last 35 years helping New York City residents create, cultivate, and preserve community gardens as neighborhood parks, healthy green spaces, and urban farms.

Green Guerillas pledges its continued support to New York City's community gardens and gardeners and urges the New York City Council to approve Resolution 1890.

Green Guerillas was involved in the legal challenges and the city-wide advocacy campaign from 1998 to 2002 that led to the preservation and protection of hundreds of community gardens.

Resolution 1890 is an important next step as it recognizes the importance of community gardens as part of the fabric of neighborhoods and grants these community green spaces important protection. The resolution also recognizes the incredible work of community gardeners throughout our city.

As community gardeners manage neighborhood green spaces, help people grow food for their families, teach children how to garden, provide safe places for senior citizens, and bring people together to celebrate their cultures – they deserve to do so in community gardens that are mapped as City parkland with all the protection this designation will afford.

Green Guerillas thanks Council Members Foster, Barron, Jackson and James for putting forth this resolution and we urge other members of the City Council to vote for its approval.

Thank you for your time.

To Whom it May Concern,

June 24, 2009

The reason we are writing this letter to you is we are concerned about what may happen to our garden. We are the students of PS/IS 155, and we work and play in the Phoenix Community Garden on Fulton Street and Rockaway Avenue in Brooklyn.

The reason why we like the garden is because we can eat fresh healthy foods, and the store only has junk food. Another reason is, many of us have asthma and we need trees and plants to help clean the air so that we can breathe. We need the garden because it is very important to us. It lets us give back to our community, and make it a better place. We like that it gives us a place to jump around and play and climb on the dirt piles. Another reason is we like the garden because we get to work and help our plants grow, and the plants help us grow when we eat them. We also talk a lot in the garden. The garden is also like a job for us, and gives us a sense of accomplishment.

Please do not take our garden away from us. Please make sure that our garden and all gardens in the city are protected. Thank you so much for your time and consideration and reading our letter.

Sincerely,

The students of PS/IS 155

Renee Gonzalez  
Asia Joyner  
Yadira Sierra  
Stephanie Gonzalez  
Jamel Williams  
Zeb Christian  
April Taylor

Mr. Abbott Aphelia Ali  
Tiana Jennett  
Esther Aloba  
Keria Davis  
Davia Domellien  
Kbasia Diocif  
Neesa Doolchan

# NYCCGC's Top 9 Recommendations for Legislations & Policies for Our Community Gardens:

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

1. Strengthening and making law the State Attorney General's agreement to protect the rights of community gardens as defacto Parkland.
2. All remaining Housing Preservation Department community gardens which can be developed as community gardens or housing to become permanent GreenThumb Parks Department gardens immediatley.
3. All GreenThumb City owned (such as Parks Department) community gardens to become mapped as Parksland, under community control, fully protected in perpetuity.
4. Community gardeners would continue to be the lead participants and have final decision on new plans for their site across all city agencies and land trusts.
5. Any vacant properties (in neighborhoods with less than the 2.5 acres of open space per 1000 persons standard) available or becoming available through city agencies must first be offered to the community as permanent community gardens.
6. Funds to be made available to purchase lots especially in neighborhoods with less than the 2.5 acres of open space per 1000 persons to create new community gardens – this may be a city budget set aside from 1% of building and development taxes.
7. Any community garden that becomes abandoned or receives multiple violations be reported to NYCCGC or a similar advisory group. In time, if no group is identified to care for the garden, it must be offered for other open space uses before other options are explored.
8. More Parks <sup>ECity</sup> Department land be made available to community garden groups.
9. Any new development site with substantial city funding or land originally owned by city agencies will include community gardens as a mandated public open space.



Aresh Javadi, c o - founder M o r e  
NYC Community Garden Coalition  
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Gardens!  
Board Member,  
New York, 10451

June 24, 2009

**TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF PRESERVING COMMUNITY GARDENS, IN PERPETUITY**

**And as per Resolution 1890 designating Greenthumb Gardens as City Parkland**

**By Haja Worley**

Good Morning Councilmembers:

I am here to represent the New York City Community Gardens Coalition, Project Harmony, Inc., and the Joseph Daniel Wilson Memorial Garden on West 122<sup>nd</sup> Street in Harlem.

Having long been in the struggle to preserve community gardens, I support every effort to insure that community gardens remain a vibrant part of the fabric of our wonderfully diverse city. These verdant oases help to build and stabilize communities, and at once nurture and nourish them in invaluable ways. Community gardens speak to the resilience and self-reliance of our citizenry; they speak, uniquely, to the camaraderie our citizens have for one another; they are a remarkable reflection of the many cultures which coexist here, harmoniously. They are amazing evidence of just how willingly and productively our city's populace can work together for the good of all.

Mayor Bloomberg initiated PLANYC, and I believe that community gardens need to be closely linked to the Mayor's 2030 plan. I trust the Council will agree on the importance of putting forth Resolution 1890, and that the Department of City Planning will designate Greenthumb Gardens as City Parkland.

Thank you.



**Written Testimony for Oversight by the New York City Council  
Committee hearing will focus on the future of community gardens in NYC and  
specifically Resolution #1890, which calls upon the City to map all Green Thumb  
community gardens in NYC as parkland, thereby giving them stronger protections  
for the future**

**Submitted June 24, 2009**

This testimony is being submitted by Rev. Devanie Jackson, Director of Programs with the Brooklyn Rescue Mission and the Bed-Stuy Farm.

The Bed-Stuy Farm is in danger of being sold by HPD to developers to repay a debt incurred by Neighborhood Partnership Housing Development/Direct Building Management. The parcel of land which the Bed-Stuy Farm now occupies a double lot 100 ft x 50 ft is a full sun lot located on the (southern side) or sunny side of Decatur Street between Malcolm X Blvd and Patchen Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn and currently produces an over of 7,000 lbs of fresh produce every year.

The Bed-Stuy Farm is a vibrant and productive green space which functions as an agricultural training center for young farmers and community resident living in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn. It is a source of inspiration and community pride for neighborhood greening, backyard food gardening, emergency food program agriculture projects and a reminder to all community residents of the benefits of nutrition and healthy eating. The Brooklyn Rescue Mission/ Bed-Stuy Farm was recently awarded the 2008 Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Award from World Hunger Year and vote number six best urban farm in the country by Natural Home Magazine. Each spring the farm becomes alive with community volunteers, community youth and neighborhood families in preparation for the anticipated season of community events and local food growth for new growing season.

In an intensive plan to save our urban farm from development we are rallying Bed-Stuy community residents on an organizing project with several activities and events to highlight the great work we accomplish in building community across diverse economic groups and improving the food system of Bedford-Stuyvesant.

- Organizing community youth around the benefits of the mission and programs of the Bed-Stuy Farm which includes programming such as nutrition and healthy eating workshops, physical fitness, neighborhood safety and to influence policy and practice so that everyone can be active and have access to affordable, healthy, locally grown food through programs like our Bed-Stuy Farm.
- We have organized emergency food program participants to participate in projects around the Bed-Stuy Farm altering the local food system and advocacy project around

improving fresh food access in Bed-Stuy in addition to contacting elected officials to protect land that grows fresh food in New York City.

- Organizing seniors to utilize their resources as voters, property owners and church and club members and frequent users of the Bed-Stuy Farm and other community gardens to circulate petitions, speak as urban farm advocates and obtain support from our local politicians to save the Bed-Stuy farm and other community gardens that grow fresh food for our communities.
- We host free special events on the Bed-Stuy farm to engage community members in understanding the food system, in addition to food tastings, farm education festivals, youth and parent events, school group participation and concert recitals to raise awareness about the need to save our urban farm and the use of land in their community.
- The Brooklyn Rescue Mission is a community organization that serves the people of Bed-Stuy through food harvested from the Bed-Stuy Farm at our BRM food pantry serving over 4000 people a month, farmers market throughout the summer, and an urban farm that involves and feeds people in the neighborhood.
- The HPD (not the owner just the agency looking to sell on behalf of Neighborhood Partnership Housing Development/Direct Building Management) is threatening to take a lot at 406 Decatur St. from the BRM and sell it to a developer which would create shade that would decrease farm output, decrease the amount of land available for the farm, and decrease land available for elderly residents to meet and communicate.
- Information on this struggle can be found on [www.brooklynrescuemission.org](http://www.brooklynrescuemission.org). Brooklyn Rescue Mission Bed Stuy Farm is located at 255 Bainbridge Street, Brooklyn NY, 11233 ▪ 718 363-3085



# united community centers

INCORPORATED

Phone: (718) 649-7979    613 NEW LOTS AVENUE    BROOKLYN, NY 11207  
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June 23, 2009

Dear Council Members:

I am here today on behalf of the members of the East New York Farms! Project in Brooklyn, New York. Since our inception in 1998, we have grown to be one of the largest and most successful urban agriculture and market creation projects in the country. We work with over 40 adult and 25 youth gardeners to grow healthy food in over a dozen community gardens and run one of the most vibrant markets in New York City.

I want to thank you for the Council for creating this opportunity for discussion on Community Gardens, and to commend Councilmembers Barron, Foster, Jackson, and James for introducing Resolution 1890 in an effort to give gardens the permanency they deserve.

We would like to make some additional recommendations. We ask that the Council also consider adding to this bill a provision of Resolution 1033, introduced in 2007, that any garden that is abandoned or receives multiple violations from any City or State agency to be offered to other gardeners before its use is changed. We field inquiries weekly if not daily from neighbors who want to get involved in gardening. At the same time, some gardens in our community were started decades ago by people who are no longer able to take care of them. With a set process and timeline established, Green Thumb could work with community groups like ours to identify people interested in taking over struggling gardens.

We also ask that the Council further support community gardens by allowing them to benefit from some of the services that other Parks Department properties benefit from, like timely external repairs of fences and sidewalks. I think we are all aware of some of the benefits that gardens bring to a community – green space, fresh air, and beauty. I want to stress even more ways that gardens are essential to our communities, and are worth not only tolerating but also investing in.

I would like to commend the Council for its focus on health and healthy eating in the past few years. From taking on trans-fats to passing Green Carts legislation, it is clear that New York City is making the health of its residents a priority. It would be a huge oversight in to ignore gardens as a crucial part of this effort. *Gardens are feeding this city, and have been for over 30 years.* In many working class communities throughout New York, where fast food restaurants, corner stores, and liquor stores far outnumber grocery stores and parks, gardens have been some of the only sources of fresh food for years, with the added benefit of creating public green spaces and gathering places. The gardeners we work with grew over 14,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce

for sale at our market last year. And that number does not even include the produce that these gardeners brought home to their families and gave to the neighbors. Even though the recent growth in farmers markets across the city has benefited some low-income neighborhoods, the competition for farmers to supply these markets has also grown, meaning markets in outer-borough neighborhoods have difficulty attracting farmers.

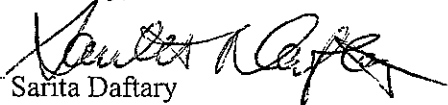
Gardens are also building community in East New York. They function as a place for people to preserve their cultures, and work across barriers of age and ethnicity that often divide us. I want to tell you about one family that has been involved in our project. The Titilawos moved to East New York from Nigeria where they were involved in farming. Their daughter Peace joined our youth program, where she had the opportunity to learn about farming. She became more interested in learning about the farming her family did in Nigeria. Her parents learned about the opportunity to farm in the city, and her father joined one of our newest community gardens, Hands and Heart Garden, which was developed on land donated to us by the Department of Housing Preservation and Development in 2007. After years of sitting idle while the Parks Department struggled to gather funds to develop a park, this ½ acre lot is now a thriving urban farm with more than 25 members representing the diversity of our community. Now the Titilawos garden there together, Peace teaching her father about the sustainable farming techniques she learned in our internship program, while her father passes on the agricultural skills he learned in Nigeria.

Lastly, community gardens are also victory for our community. A horrible history of racial discrimination in mortgage lending spurred a vicious cycle of urban decline that left our community riddled with vacant lots. The fact that community residents have joined together to convert these lots into community assets through gardening is symbol of our resilience.

I want to reinforce the point that so many of my fellow gardeners have made – this city needs gardens. I think this is a point that many people can easily agree with. But gardens also need support from this city. Resolution 1890 is an important start. It will ensure gardeners that the land they cleaned up, nurtured, and cared for as volunteers will not be sold to the highest bidder. Gardens also need the support of a formal process to keep land as gardens even if their original organizers are no longer able to keep the gardens going. Lastly, they need the recognition that they are expected to and would ideally function much like parks, and just like parks, they need investments from the city to keep them from falling into disrepair.

Thank you again for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Sarita Daftary  
East New York Farms! Project Director

Ms. Rhoma Mostel  
100 Sullivan Street #4B  
New York, NY 10012

June 24, 2009

Mr. Gary Altman  
Legislative Counsel  
New York City Council  
250 Broadway – 15th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

**re: Resolution #1890 - LaGuardia Corner Gardens**

Dear Mr. Altman:

I am writing to express concern that the Attorney General's agreement giving protection to community gardens is due to expire. I fervently recommend that, for the sake of our communities, such protection be extended and fortified.

**LaGuardia Corner Gardens**, our community garden, is a Greenthumb garden, self-financed and self-maintained. It has served as a necessary oasis and beloved cultural institution in our community for almost 30 years. An attractive and vibrant community garden, it has become an integral part of neighborhood life. It offers very necessary **greenspace** in an already congested and polluted area.

LaGuardia Corner Gardens maintains an active **children's program**, introducing urban children to nature and educating them to have respect for and commitment to the natural world. Classes of schoolchildren have released butterflies into the garden, followed the life cycles of various plants, and even learned how to grow and take care of plants, thereby learning respect for living things.

As part of its outreach, LaGuardia Corner Gardens offers **cultural events**, including participation in music programs such as Make Music New York.

A community garden is not just a green space; it is a special world where local residents, through their hard work, funds, and commitments of time and energy continue to create a place of beauty, color, and harmony that could serve as a **role model** for the larger world. The quality of its greenspace is quite different from a park. Unlike a park, a community garden invites **active participation** from the community at large in its maintenance and ongoing stewardship, fostering greater sense of community cohesion and pride in our general neighborhood surroundings.

Our website, [laguardiacornergardens.org](http://laguardiacornergardens.org), attracts visitors from all over the world.

Our garden is unique in that it represents a **diversity** of age groups and socio-economic backgrounds, from schoolchildren to artists, writers, university professors, health and social service professionals, etc., all of whom devote their energies to making this garden a special place and a **necessary institution** in our local life. LaGuardia Corner Gardens also provides a real place where local **seniors**, who often cannot travel to the Botanic Gardens, can and do appreciate the great variety of our mature plantings. To seniors and other frequent visitors, our irises and roses are old friends, and they frequently comment on particular favorite plants.

**LaGuardia Corner Gardens** deserves permanent protection and must remain a vital force for good in our community. May it and other community gardens continue to flourish and have the complete and enthusiastic backing of all our public officials.

Please visit us in person or on the web at [laguardiacornergardens.org](http://laguardiacornergardens.org).



## FOR THE RECORD

*Janice Pargh*  
176 Thompson Street - 3C  
New York City 10012  
(212) 477-3327

June 20, 2009

Mr. Gary Altman  
Legislative Counsel  
New York City Council  
250 Broadway – 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10007

re: Resolution #1890 - LaGuardia Corner Gardens

Dear Mr. Altman:

In 2010 the Agreement reached between the Attorney General and the City comes to an end. As a member of *LaGuardia Corner Gardens*, and as a long-time resident of CB2, I urge the NYC Council to pass legislation to protect all of our community gardens. Specifically, I urge support of NYC Council Resolution #1890, which would map all the community gardens as parkland, offering them greater protection.

Our garden, *LaGuardia Corner Gardens*, is an award-winning community garden in the heart of NYC's Greenwich Village. It is a place of natural beauty, where the visitor can find an oasis of calm in urban surroundings. During the growing season, visitors can enjoy a dazzling display of daffodils, tulips, irises, peonies, roses, and other perennials, as well as shrubs and fruit trees.

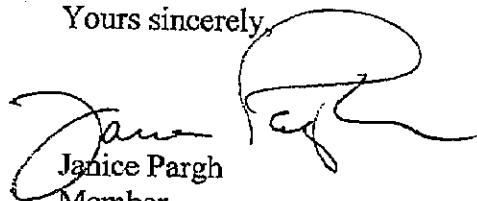
The garden was created in 1981 by volunteers on a strip of barren land. It is maintained and supported by volunteer members and is self-supporting. *LCG* is registered with GreenThumb and is a designated Backyard Wildlife Habitat and Monarch Waystation. The garden has trees, shrubs, and perennials that attract birds, butterflies, and bees. Among the birds that have visited the garden are warblers, cardinals, and hummingbirds.

In the spring members conduct programs for local school children. Garden events include seasonal celebrations, events for children, and a variety of musical offerings. Members host scheduled open hours from April through October.

*LCG* is proud to be among the *LaGuardia Gardens* and the *Time Landscape* in forming the "ribbon of green," a flow of green spaces along the east side of LaGuardia Place, from West 3d to Houston Street.

Community gardens impact their neighborhoods in so many ways. A friendly face to all, they can provide a chance to learn about growing food, nature, and the environment, which lessons are carried into our daily lives. Let us ensure the survival of these community gardens for the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Pargh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Janice Pargh  
Member

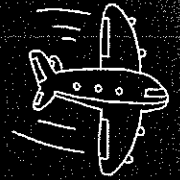
LaGuardia Corner Gardens

[www.laguadiacornergardens.org](http://www.laguadiacornergardens.org)

# FOR THE RECORD

June 24, 2009

*East Village Bed & Coffee*



Gary Altman  
Legislative Council  
Council of the City of New York  
250 Broadway 15th Floor  
New York NY 10007

Att: Community Gardens Hearing - June 24, 2009

Re: Saving my sanity and continuing to make a big city feel like home

Dear Mr. Altman,

My name is Anne Edris. I am the treasurer for the Sam & Sadie Koenig Community Garden located at 237 E. 7<sup>th</sup> street in Manhattan.

I moved into a building adjacently located to 237 in 1992. My involvement with the garden began before I knew what was to become of it, when I found myself removing an eyesore of garbage from a whole lot of nothing: full of building debris, drug paraphernalia, and a thwarted effort at drug dealers.

My goal at the time was not beatification but my child's safety.

I soon learned I was not alone. Thus begun my introduction to my neighbors, the 'hood' and now our sanctuaries though labors of love.

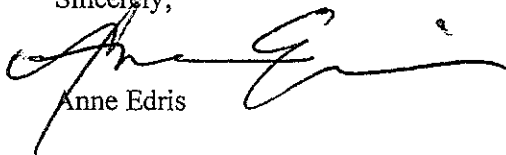
Collectively, our goals were met and continue to grow through the assistance of Green Thumb.

You cannot put a price tag {\$} on peace and happiness, only greed.

If our green oases were to be lost, it would be nothing short of another crime in our community - a stab in the heart of what defines NYC: we the people.

Do the right thing.

Sincerely,

  
Anne Edris

110 Avenue C  
New York, NY 10009

www.bedandcoffee.com  
(917) 816 0071







Circa 1994



Removing a tree stump



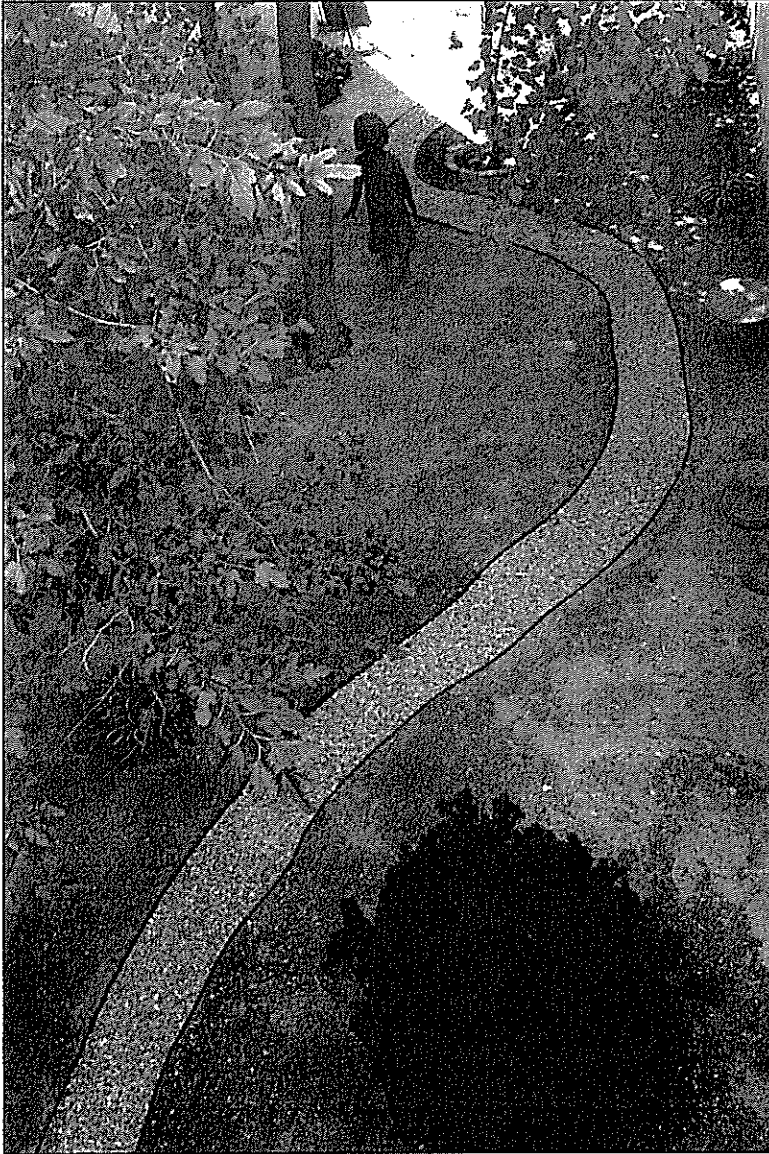
Arborist pruning the Mulberry tree



Digging for buried treasure in hopes of installing a new gate  
2004



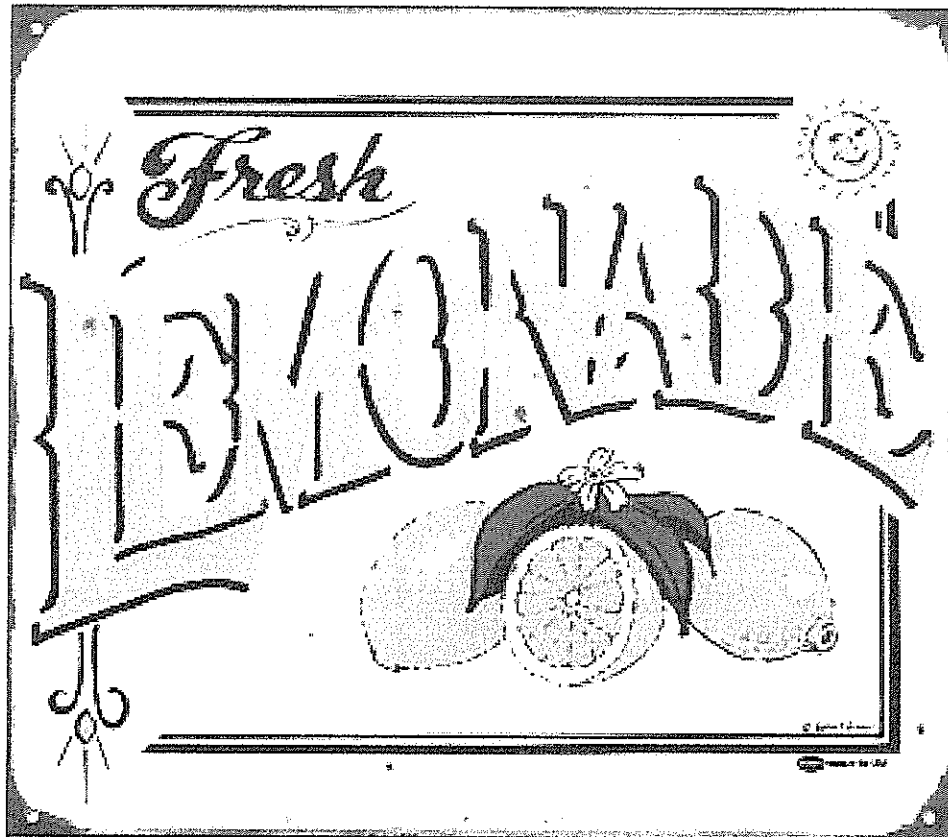
Installing Kiki Smith's sculpture 'The Guardian'



Our Garden in 2007



# WANTED



\$5

Quench your thirst and help support the

**Sam and Sadie Koeing Community Garden**  
**237 East 7th Street @ Ave. C**  
**11am - 2pm**  
**Saturday, June 2nd**

## FOR THE RECORD

MAGALI REGIS ARCHITECT

601 EAST 11 STREET 3B NEW YORK NY 10009

212 505 2711

magaliregis@earthlink.net

22 June 2009

To: Gary Altman  
Legislative Council  
Council of the City of New York  
250 Broadway, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York NY 10007

Re: **24 June 2009 City Council Community Gardens Hearing**

### TESTIMONY

My name is Magali Regis and I'm a member of Creative Little Garden in the East Village. The NYS Attorney General's agreement that saved our gardens in 2002 will be expiring in 2010 with no other legislation in place yet to protect our community gardens. This is of concern to me as it leaves our garden and all the others once again vulnerable to be taken away after all these years of hard work to protect them and make them an integral part of our lives in our communities. I am writing to urge the City Council to pass legislation to make all our community gardens permanent.

Our garden is one of the reasons that make New York the special place that it is. In fact, it should be included in New York City Guide books as one of the places to visit; or at least one of the places around the city to find some peace and quiet. It is that beautiful!

Located at 530 East Sixth Street, between Avenues A & B, the Creative Little Garden has been an oasis of tranquility in New York's East Village for 25 years. It's a "community backyard," maintained by volunteers from the surrounding neighborhood. There are no plots tended by individual gardeners, instead members collaborate on the landscaping of the whole park. We have two large weeping willows, evergreen trees, dogwood, ferns, rose bushes, and many varieties of plants and flowers.

Everyone, not only members, can relax, read, have lunch, work on their laptop or just enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of our garden. From time to time, local school teachers bring their kids to visit the garden as well. After September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 we held a vigil in the garden for our local firemen who perished in the towers.

Our garden is open every day from 11:00am to sunset, weather permitting. This allows the garden to be available to local residents everyday for their enjoyment. It always gives me such pleasure when I'm in the garden working, and someone passing by accidentally stumbles upon the garden, completely in awe at its beauty. I ask them to sign our guest book and to come back. We also get many visitors from Europe. Many of the European guide books on New York mention the community gardens in the East Village and they come to visit. If I wasn't limited to a one-page testimony, I'd attached copies of our guest book pages and the many wonderful comments we get.

When the garden is closed, because of rain, or because of something beyond our control, we start getting phone calls from the community asking about when it will be opened again. When it's closed, people really miss it! So we make it our duty to see to it that it's opened everyday. Last year, one the summer torrential rains and strong winds damaged one of our trees and a large branch snapped off and broke, practically cutting the tree in half. We had to remain close for close to two of weeks for safety reasons until we hired a professional a tree-pruner to climb the tree and saw-off the broken limb as GreenThumb was not able to assist us right away. Luckily the tree still survived but the financial cost was high; paid for with contributions from the yearly membership dues of our members.

I long for the day when the Creative Little Garden will get its official, well-deserved place as a NYC neighborhood park with special community-run status, for all to enjoy for decades to come. I invite you to visit our website at [creativelittlegarden.org](http://creativelittlegarden.org) to know more and see photographs of our garden. Thank you.



Magali Regis



*The following testimony is submitted by Dr. Kevin Matteson of City Island, in the Bronx. Dr. Matteson has studied the butterfly and bee fauna of community gardens in East Harlem and the Bronx for over seven years. The following is written by Dr. Matteson:*

I am currently in Amherst giving a presentation on the ecological value of community gardens and other green spaces. Otherwise, it would be a great priority for me to be here in person to submit this testimony. During the course of seven years of research, I have collected extensive data indicating that the community gardens of NYC are extremely valuable in preserving bee, butterfly and overall pollinator diversity. Specifically, I found individual community gardens in New York City to harbor over 20 species of bee and up to 16 species of butterfly. This is significant ecologically and in terms of urban biodiversity conservation. This also is quite surprising given the small size of community gardens and their location in urban setting. In total, I have documented over 54 bee species living in community gardens of the Bronx and East Harlem. Given current concerns over honey bee declines, many New Yorkers are surprised to hear that there is such a diversity of wild native bees in community gardens providing the valuable service of pollination for our crop and wild plant species. In addition, community gardens are extremely unique urban habitats because they tend to be located in neighborhoods with multi-family apartment buildings and few residential private gardens. Therefore, community gardens provide a vital role in providing nectar and pollen to bees, butterflies and other pollinators, especially in the densely populated neighborhoods of the city. It is my opinion that without community gardens there would be few pollinators in many these areas of the city. Therefore, I strongly recommend that the city adopt the proposed protection measures for community gardens which will help maintain biodiversity and pollination services within the urbanized landscape of New York City.

In addition to the above statements, I submit the following excerpts, taken from an article which I published in a scholarly journal in 2008:

“...despite their small size and location within highly urbanized areas, urban community gardens harbor a diverse assemblage of bees that may provide pollination services and opportunities for ecological exposure and education.”

“The species total of bees found in the urban gardens is remarkably similar to species totals for Central Park, Prospect Park, and [the restored areas of] Freshkills landfill in Staten Island. This is surprising, because these sites (especially the two parks) are individually much larger in area than the summed area of the [community] gardens of this study (Table 4), and they include extensive areas of semi-natural vegetation ...the similarity in richness of the known bee faunas of urban gardens and the much larger parks of the city highlights the ecological value of the 700 human-maintained community gardens located throughout New York City, despite their small size and location within highly developed urban neighborhoods.”

“The ecological value of community gardens is also apparent when considering the distribution of [bee] species across the 19 sampled gardens. Most [bee] species were found in only a few gardens. The sampled gardens vary in diversity and abundance of floral resources, garden area, and other factors that may affect presence of bees at the garden-level, with some gardens harboring 20 native bee species (Matteson 2007). Despite the importance of individual

community gardens for certain bee species, many gardens in New York City are under threat of development for real estate (Englander 2001). Wide-scale losses of urban community gardens may result not only in localized reduction of bee species and the pollination services they provide, but also in the loss of community-based venues for environmental education and exposure.”

Above quotes are from:

Matteson KC, Ascher JS, Langelotto GA (2008) Bee richness and abundance in New York City urban gardens. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 101:140-150

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at [kevmatteson@fordham.edu](mailto:kevmatteson@fordham.edu).

New York City, June 22, 2009

To: Gary Altman  
Legislative Council  
Council of the City of New York  
250 Broadway, 15th Floor  
New York NY 10007

Re: **24 June 2009 City Council Community Gardens Hearing**

TESTIMONY

My name is Sylvain Leroux. I am a member of the Creative Little Garden on 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Avenues A and B.

In the East Village, Community Gardens have tremendously contributed to the renaissance of what used to be a severely blighted neighborhood. By the mid-nineties, the community had, on its own initiative, cleaned up abandoned, derelict lots, planted trees, bushes and flowers and turned them into beautiful gardens; peaceful environments for families, children and everyone else, fostering a sense of quality and security among the residents, pushing back against ugliness and decay.

Little by little, the neighborhood shed its bad reputation. Developers eventually noticed the increased quality of life in the East Village and suddenly real estate boomed. A surge of garden destructions followed. Many of these beautiful gardens were destroyed. Some to make room for community housing, and some went to private interests to build luxury condos with economical benefit... mostly to developers.

Thankfully, the Creative Little Garden and a few others – after much lobbying -- survived as havens of peace and tranquility among the chaos of the big City. Without this garden, and others like it, the quality of our lives would be greatly diminished, living as we are in this urban environment that is constantly hammering us with noise, traffic, pollution and stimulation.

We human beings need foliage, flowers, bird songs and the smells of wet earth to replenish our spirits and nourish our soul. Sitting in the Creative Little Garden, lovingly tended by its members, gives one a measure of that nourishment and contributes to help us to confront the struggle of our daily lives and maintain our equilibrium.

City parks do exist and are wonderful. But they do not give city residents the opportunity to get their hands into gardening, to cultivate that special relationship to nature that is so beneficial to the human soul. Currently, there are billboards around the City exhorting residents to get to know each other, claiming justly that once you know your neighbors, the criminal element will clearly stand out. Community Gardens enable neighbors to get involved together, to get to know each other while participating in activities that benefit the community as a whole therefore increasing the overall level of security.

Please do not minimize the importance of these precious oases of peace in the City. Even for people who do not take part in the daily life of the Gardens, their presence is a source of incalculable benefit in quality of life, security and mental health. We need to protect them.

I urge you take the appropriate legal measures so that Community Gardens will be enjoyed by future generations of New Yorkers.

Thank you.

## FOR THE RECORD

Sam and Sadie Koenig Garden  
Secretary  
231 East Seventh Street  
New York, NY 10009  
June 24, 2009

The Sam and Sadie Koenig Garden came into existence fifty years ago after the former home of the Koenig family on Block 377, Lot 69 in Manhattan was destroyed by the city. The garden's large Mulberry and the Crabapple tree were planted then. This land, as part of the original garden including Lots 71, 70 and 69, was redeveloped as a community garden in the 1980's and 1990's and was registered with GreenThumb. Lot 69 was landscaped and planted once again in 2007 after the construction of a new building on Lot 70 and the renovation of Lot 68 had destroyed much of what had been done. The rear section of Lot 69, too narrow for any possible building construction, has been made part of the garden with a path, a compost bin and the planting of various shrubs and climbing plants.

Many residents of this block of East Seventh Street between C and D have joined the garden group and help out with the garden when it is open for twenty hours each weekend. Many more local people and visitors stop in to see the plants, enjoy the quiet and, of course, to attend the events which we hold each summer. A lemonade sale is popular on a hot afternoon, while literary readings, art exhibitions and musical performances are not just a welcome diversion but help the community learn about the many talents of its members. The garden space is also available for meeting too large for a small apartment. Members of the Koenig family have visited the garden and continue to be

informed of what is happening here.

We feel that the Sam and Sadie Koenig Garden, with its real connection to the past, is an important part of our block. It provides the respite of nature and draws people together as nothing else here does. We very much hope that New York City will protect this and all the other gardens which form one of the essential links in a diverse community.

*Catherine Kord*

Catherine Kord  
Secretary

Sam and Sadie Koenig Garden

I Kendall Morrison of 130 palmetto Street, 3rd Floor, Brookyn, NY 11221 ask that the NYC City Council work to adopt all of the following 10 principals:

1. Strengthening language from the State Attorney General's agreement to protect the rights of community gardens.
2. All remaining Housing Preservation Department which can be developed as community gardens or housing to become permanent GreenThumb Parks Department gardens.
3. All GreenThumb Parks Department gardens become mapped as State Parks and/or made fully protected in perpetuity.
4. Any vacant properties (in neighborhoods with less than the 2.5 acres of open space per 1000 persons standard) available or becoming available through city agencies must first be offered to the community as permanent community gardens.
5. Funds to be made available to purchase lots especially in neighborhoods with less than the 2.5 acres of open space per 1000 persons to create new community gardens – this may be a city budget set aside from 1% of building and development taxes.
6. Community gardeners would have lead participation and the final decision on new plans for their site across all city agencies.
7. Any community garden that becomes abandoned or receives multiple violations be reported to NYCCGC or a similar advisory group. In time, if no group is identified to care for the garden, it must be offered for other open space uses before other options are explored.
8. More Parks Department land be made available to community garden groups.
9. Any new development site with substantial city funding or land originally owned by city agencies will include community gardens as a mandated public open space.
10. Reinstate the Leaf collection program as well as the compost giveback program and enact legislation that allows community gardens to compost up to 24 cubic yards of Food Waste collected from its members per year without DEC Part 360-5 registration.

Re: resolution 1890

I urge the City Council to renew resolution 1890 to protect our Greenthumb Gardens. All Greenthumb Gardens should be mapped as Parks and protected as such.

I represent LaGuardia Corner Gardens on Bleecker Street. We are a 30 year old Greenthumb garden made on the roadbed of a failed urban project. LaGuardia Gardens is the oldest and the last remaining community garden in the west village. The benchmark for greenspace is 2.5 acres per 1,000 people. CB2, the heart of Greenwich Village, has the second lowest at 0.4 acres per 1,000 people.

An NYU environmental impact study found that greenspace actually improves a neighborhood. "We find that the opening of a community garden has statistically significant positive impact on residential properties within 1000 feet of the garden, and that impact increases over time. We find that gardens have the greatest impact in the most disadvantaged neighborhoods. Higher quality gardens have the greatest positive impact. Finally, we find that the opening of a garden is associated with other changes in the neighborhood, such as increasing rates of home ownership, and thus may be serving as catalysts for economic redevelopment of the community".

Community Gardens are self sustaining greenspaces beloved in their communities. To allow them to be bulldozed for development would tear the heart and soul from their neighborhoods.

Sara Jones: Chair  
171 Thompson St, NYC, NY 10012  
[www.LaGuardia Corner Gardens.org](http://www.LaGuardiaCornerGardens.org)  
email: [sprucehous@aol.com](mailto:sprucehous@aol.com)

THE GARDENERS, ARTISTS COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORS  
OF LE PETIT VERSAILLES GARDEN  
PETITION FOR THE GUARANTEED EXISTENCE OF  
GARDENS & GREEN PUBLIC SPACE IN NEW YORK CITY.

THE GARDENS OF NEW YORK ARE AN IMPORTANT  
PART OF THE URBAN POLICY ATTRACTING WORLDWIDE  
INTEREST IN HOW GARDENS FUNCTION AS ESSENTIAL  
GREEN PUBLIC SPACES FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS TO ALL NEW YORKERS.

ALLIED PRODUCTIONS, INC. A NON PROFIT ARTS  
ORGANIZATION IS STEWARD OF THE GARDEN  
PETIT VERSAILLES AND "LEASE" HOLDERS IN  
AGREEMENT WITH GREENTHUMB AND NYC  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS SINCE 1996.

WE ARE THE PRODUCERS OF FREE PUBLIC EVENTS  
MAY TO OCTOBER INITIATED SINCE 2001 WITH  
SUPPORT FROM THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON  
THE ARTS, NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS. MATERIALS FOR THE ARTS, CITY  
PARKS FOUNDATION (9/11FUND), CITIZENS FOR NYC,  
TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND, POETS & WRITERS, MEET  
THE COMPOSER.

LE PETIT VERSAILLES HAS DEVELOPED A GARDEN  
CENTER THAT BRIDGES SHIFTING DEMOGRAPHICS OF  
THE LOWER EAST SIDE. IT HAS SERVED AS A REFUGE  
FOR MANY AND CONTINUES IT'S COMMITMENT TO THE  
COMMUNITY PROFILE OF CIVIL URBAN POLICY THAT IS  
NOW AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE MAYOR'S PLANYC  
WHICH I REFER TO AS "PLAY NICE!"

WE SUBMIT THIS PETITION TO THE PUBLIC RECORD  
PROCEEDINGS OF THIS HEARING ON THIS DAY, JUNE  
24, 2009.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, YOUR COMMITMENT AND  
YOUR CIVIC DUTY.

FURTHERMORE, WE PETITION THE FOLLOWING  
REQUESTS.

1. IMPROVEMENTS TO FENCING ON BOTH SIDES OF GARDEN.  
2ND ST, FENCE IS LISTING DUE TO ADJACENT BUILDING  
REPAIRS IN 2004.
  2. ELECTRICAL SERVICE TO PROVIDE FOR FREE PUBLIC EVENTS.
  3. DIRECT WATER ACCESS TO GARDEN WORKSPACE FOR  
WATERING & CLEANING.
  4. IMPROVEMENT OF GARDEN WALKWAYS FOR WHEELCHAIR  
ACCESS.
  5. RAINSAVING STRUCTURE OVER EXISTING ARBOR STRUCTURE  
TO PROMOTE WATER CONSERVANCY FOR PLANTINGS.
- UPGRADES WILL INCREASE SERVICE FUNCTIONALITY TO THE  
PUBLIC.

- 1) NAME OF PROPERTY TO BE IMPROVED:  
LE PETIT VERSAILLES GARDEN
- 2) ADDRESS OF PROPERTY TO BE IMPROVED:  
BLOCK 384 LOT 28  
346 EAST HOUSTON STREET / 247 EAST 2<sup>ND</sup> STREET  
GARDEN BORDERS BOTH ADDRESSES

WE THE UNDERSIGNED OF THIS PETITION; THE GARDENERS, ARTISTS COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURS OF LE PETIT VERSAILLES GARDEN, DEMAND THAT THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND RELATED CITY AGENCIES TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO PRESERVE NEW YORK CITY GARDENS.

WE URGE YOU TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION #1890 WHICH CALLS UPON THE CITY TO MAP ALL GREENTHUMB COMMUNITY GARDENS IN NYC AS PARKLAND, THEREBY GIVING THEM STRONGER PROTECTION FOR THE FUTURE!

| NAME                             | ADDRESS/E-MAIL                     | COMMENT                 |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| pierre bouvier                   | 244 East 2nd St.                   | NEW WAYS TO GARDENS.    |
| Karen Black                      | 245 E 2nd #4                       | support garden          |
| Kimber Pfeiler                   | 245 E 2nd #4                       |                         |
| <del>Orth</del> <del>Tones</del> | 6611 - PARK AVE<br>07093 NJ 07315  | W.N.Y. N.J.             |
| Shari Brenner                    | 249 E. 2nd St.                     | Support pub gardens     |
| Gladys Nieves                    | 89 Pitt Street                     | (support our gardens)   |
| Joseph Jacobs                    | 300 Mercer St. 19th                | NY NY                   |
| <del>Elvira</del>                | Stuyvesant                         | NY NY                   |
| Evan Rapier                      |                                    |                         |
| Kylee McDonald                   | 507 Ave D #31                      | NY NY                   |
| <del>JD</del>                    | 332 East 6th St                    |                         |
| It is                            | 91 Boerum St.<br>Brooklyn NY 11206 | Support to our gardens. |

NAME

ADDRESS/EMAIL

COMMENT

PALOMA LOPEZ 21-23 Ave C NYC

Theresa Hayes 239 East 2 St

Rhonda Mink 332 E 4 Street

Edmund Zagzein BRONX (condese)

Logg Moore 54 e 3rd St

Frank Junior Herrera ~ Juniorherreria@hotmail.com

LEVIN G. HOROYE ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Mikek.gj@gmail.com  
USA ROCKFORD 249 E 2nd

Barbara Krooss 111 Hicks St Brooklyn

Robert Stern 111 Hicks St. Brooklyn



WE THE UNDERSIGNED OF THIS PETITION; THE GARDENERS, ARTISTS COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBOURS OF LE PETIT VERSAILLES GARDEN, DEMAND THAT THE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND RELATED CITY AGENCIES TAKE ALL MEASURES NECESSARY TO PRESERVE NEW YORK CITY GARDENS.

WE URGE YOU TO SUPPORT RESOLUTION #1890 WHICH CALLS UPON THE CITY TO MAP ALL GREENTHUMB COMMUNITY GARDENS IN NYC AS PARKLAND, THEREBY GIVING THEM STRONGER PROTECTION FOR THE FUTURE!

-----  
 NAME ADDRESS/EMAIL COMMENT

|                  |                                            |                                                   |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| peter cramer     | 245 E 2 <sup>nd</sup> ST, NY, NY 10009     | GARDENS ARE GREAT!                                |
| Socorro Estrella | 10 STANTON, NY, NY 10002                   | GARDENS ARE GREAT!                                |
| Shirley Marciano | 77 Columbia ST NYC 10002                   | Better Gardens than parking lots!                 |
|                  | 15 Market St<br>Brooklyn NY 11222          |                                                   |
| Rachel Amor      | Rachel Amor 10009                          | KEEP WHERE I AT                                   |
| Zina             | 121 W 117 St<br>Englewood NY               | Keep                                              |
| Walter O'Leary   | Walter O'Leary 10009                       | Value the Gardens                                 |
| A Passantino     | 233 E 14th St<br>Cruz. Billy 537@gmail.com | we need it<br>we definitely need it for our kids. |
| Pilly Cruz       |                                            |                                                   |
| Maria Reyes      | 195 Stanton St #411                        |                                                   |
| John             | John 10009                                 |                                                   |



-----  
 NAME ADDRESS/EMAIL COMMENT

Michael Shenker 209 East 26th St #3N / More Gardens!  
 NYC 10009

LESLIE LAWE 93 St. Mark St #4  
 NY 10009

REGINA BARBER 43 CLINTON ST  
 NYC 10002 APT 6

Charles Schick 292 E 3RD ST NYC 10009

Victoria Bernice 21 1st Ave NY, NY 10003

Reggie Sheridan 240 E. 2nd St. NYC 10009

Leah Sweet 50 Prince St 3B NYC 10012  
 Conna Kingew 421 Wythe #3 BK, NY 11211

Anja Keropline 187 Avenue C, NYC, NY 10009



Testimony on Res. No. 1890 -  
City Council—Committee Room, City Hall

June 24, 2009

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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My name is Ellen Belcher; I am a community gardener and community garden activist. I live in Washington Heights where I garden at the Morris-Jumel Community Garden on w162<sup>nd</sup> Street. I also am a member of the Children's Magical Garden de Carmen Rubio, which is on the corner of Norfolk and Stanton Streets on the Lower East Side. I am also a board member of the New York City Community Gardens Coalition and a professor and librarian at John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY.

I would like to speak in favor of resolution 1890 because it is an important first step toward saving all of our gardens, although it will not save the endangered and beloved Children's Magical Garden because it is not presently under the temporary protection of Green Thumb.

The Children's Magical Garden has a story similar to many gardens throughout the city. Twenty-six years ago a couple of community activists cleaned up an abandoned lot and planted trees and flowers to make a beautiful oasis in the city, safe from the crime, drugs and decay of their neighborhood. There are unique aspects to the story however, the community activists/gardeners fell in love while cleaning the garden and got married and for all of that time the garden has existed it has been dedicated to children, offering them a safe place to play and grow.

Now children who grew up in the garden bring their own children to play in the garden. On any afternoon there can be 3 or 4 languages spoken in the garden by the diverse community it serves. In the past few years we have gotten new members, because its one of the only green open spaces in the densely built-up neighborhood. We just finished planting our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual pizza garden, in which the kids plant our own pizza toppings, to be harvested in October for our annual Halloween Garden Pizza-making party. This year we received a grant to fund a medicinal garden, to teach neighborhood kids about herbs and medicinal plants. It will include plants like fuzzy lamb's ears, which were used as bandages in the medieval times, and lemon catnip, which I brought for you today.

We have a full summer of educational workshops planned, covering topics like the origins of agriculture, worm composting, bee watching and identification and traditional oven building (for the pizzas). In the meantime, the developer that owns one third of our garden might at anytime move to take over our garden (which was offered to him by HPD just a few years ago). I hope that we will not have to see children standing in front of bulldozers to save their garden – but I am ready to stand with them if need be.



**N.Y.C.C.G.C. - United We Grow!**

*The mission of the New York City Community Gardens Coalition is to promote the preservation, creation and empowerment of community gardens through education, advocacy and grassroots organizing.*

**New York City Community Gardens Coalition**

232 East 11th Street • New York NY 10003 • T/F 888 311 3993 • [www.nyccgc.org](http://www.nyccgc.org)

I hope that after Green Thumb Gardens are made permanent through this legislation we can further efforts to make all of the City's gardens permanent, including the adjacent open land owned by speculators awaiting another Guiliani style sell-off of the gardens which could legally happen in 2010. This is the situation with the Morris-Jumel Community Garden, which is a Green Thumb Garden adjacent to an abandoned lot, where we are not allowed to garden, although our waiting list for garden plots is growing longer and longer. These open spaces are becoming increasingly rare in New York – this particular space is full of red clover, possibly ancestors of the clover planted in the eighteenth century to feed a flock of Merino Sheep owned by the Jumel Family.

While we know that proposition 1890 will do nothing to protect those of us outside the group of Green Thumb gardens, I support this legislation because I know it is a first step for making all gardens permanent, be they on land managed under Parks, HPD, DOT, MTA, DOE or any other City or State agency.

I suggest to the City Council that passage of this legislation will make a strong statement to all New Yorkers that it cares for community-controlled open spaces in which families are able to be together, meet their neighbors and even grow their own food and flowers, and even their own pizza and bandages!

Ellen Belcher  
NYCCGC Board Member  
285 Fort Washington Ave #24  
New York City 10032  
[elbelcher@gmail.com](mailto:elbelcher@gmail.com)  
tel: 646.938.9702



### **N.Y.C.C.G.C. - United We Grow!**

*The mission of the New York City Community Gardens Coalition is to promote the preservation, creation and empowerment of community gardens through education, advocacy and grassroots organizing.*

**New York City Community Gardens Coalition**

232 East 11th Street • New York NY 10003 • T 212.926.8648 • F 212.690.7020 • [www.nyccgc.org](http://www.nyccgc.org)

**FOR THE RECORD**



**united community centers**  
INCORPORATED

Phone: (718) 649-7979    613 NEW LOTS AVENUE    BROOKLYN, NY 11207  
Fax: (718) 649-7256    E-Mail: UCC.INC@VERIZON.NET

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Dear Council Members,

I am here as a representative of the East New York Farms! Project in Brooklyn, an urban agriculture project that works with youth and adult gardeners growing food for our farmers market. I help to manage our two half-acre urban farms and teach youth and adults about the importance of sustainable agriculture and the role it can play in our cities.

We are very excited to see the introduction of Resolution 1890 and excited about the protections that would be afforded to gardens by mapping them as parkland. As we look to 2010 and then the expiration of the gardens agreement with the NY State Attorney General, we would like to see laws in place that make gardens permanent and acknowledge the many roles that gardens play in our communities and our city.

Gardens represent a unique response to some of the worst social and economic ills that this city has experienced, and they have grown and developed to reflect the strength and the creativity of the neighborhoods where they are found. On the surface, it might seem that gardens are spaces that can only accommodate a single activity, but in fact they are perhaps some of the most versatile spaces in the city.

As urban farmers, we of course look at gardens as places to grow food. Not just the occasional tomato or collard green, but thousands of pounds of food. Food that is sold at farmers markets, food that is distributed at soup kitchens and pantries, and food that graces the tables of families around the city, in communities where access to fresh produce can be limited.

Active gardens are great places to learn, about everything from raising chickens to growing lettuce in the winter. They are also great places to learn about our food system, our communities, and the urban environment. Already this year we have had 250 visitors come to our garden to learn about urban agriculture, ranging from pre-schoolers to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. By the years end we expect at least 200 more, and we are just one garden among many in this city.

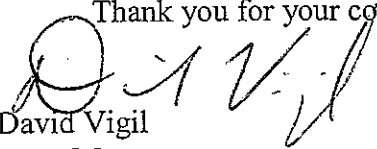


Gardens are also places where citizens can get involved—they represent civic engagement at its best. They show what communities can accomplish when they unite with a common goal, and their continued existence is a testament to the strong bonds that gardens forge between residents. At a time when the City of New York is promoting service, gardens are places where citizens can get involved and see the immediate impact of their work. We have hosted an average of thirty volunteers a week this year since April—that's 400 New Yorkers in the last two and a half months who have taken part in making change, and again, we are only one garden among many.

Finally, gardens bring together many of the greening initiatives that New York City is trying to implement on a broader scale. Gardens are collecting rainwater from rooftops and in their soils, which keeps rainwater out of our wastewater treatment plants, which consequently keeps raw sewage out of our waterways. Gardens are composting leaves and food scraps at a time when New York has suspended municipal composting, keeping biodegradable waste out of our landfills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions as a result. Gardens are producing food, representing the most local sources in a local food system. Gardens are growing trees and plants, hosting birds and butterflies and cleaning the air.

Community gardens mean many things to many New Yorkers, and these that I just mentioned are only the beginning. Resolution 1890 represents a positive step towards valuing gardens for the many roles that they play in the city, and we hope to see more legislation in the future that gives gardens funding, support, and a leading role in the transformation of New York to a greener and fairer city.

Thank you for your consideration,



David Vigil  
Farm Manager  
East New York Farms!

My name is Philipp Rassmann, and I am a resident of Washington Heights where I am a member the Morris Jumel Community Garden. I also am a member of the Children's Magical Garden in the Lower East Side and have helped out at a number of other gardens across the city such as Brook Park in the Bronx. Today I am here to urge the honorable members of the City Council to recognize all community gardens as public park land. I agree that supporting Resolution #1890 is a valuable and important step in that direction, but I also stress that it is only **ONE** step out of many that need to be pursued in order to transform and preserve all community gardens and all land available for community garden use.

Community gardens across all five boroughs in New York City provide wonderful urban oases of green trees, colorful flowers, clean air and recuperative tranquility in one of the largest cities in the world. They also provide valuable educational opportunities for children all over the city to learn about the natural world in which we live and how things grow and depend on each other to thrive. The Children's Magical Garden and Brook Park represent two of many great examples of such gardens. All of these gardens are the result of hard work to transform urban land and many battles to protect these beautiful havens from conflicting interests. Without a doubt mapping these spaces is an important step to permanently recognize and protect New York City community gardens. However, far more needs to be done to facilitate such transformations and protection.

First of all, not all New York City community gardens are among the Green Thumb gardens that Resolution #1890 aims to recognize and preserve. While the Morris Jumel Garden, at which I have a beautiful plot of leafy vegetables and colorful flowers growing, is a Green Thumb garden and would be protected by the new resolution, its protection may actually be fleeting because it lies next to an abandoned lot that a speculator refuses to relinquish. That lot may not pose any immediate threat per se, but, if the speculator decides to build a hideous structure that I have little to no say on, the presence of open air space and light in my garden would be severely cut and a terrible gloom would descend upon my garden. In addition, the Children's Magical Garden is not a Green Thumb garden. As such, it would not be given full protection under the new resolution. This is because the developer with control over part of the land on which the garden sits has not surrendered in his fight for the land. Sadly, there are countless other gardens across New York City that face similar threats.

In addition, hundreds upon thousands of empty lots sit all across New York City. Many of these appear to be abandoned, but in reality they are parcels of land that also stand to be reclaimed and transformed into community gardens or park land. Currently, many of these are in the hands of a variety of speculative interests who have resisted all attempts to open these lots and make them available for use as community gardens or other forms of public park land. This is a terrible misfortune because, as they lie delinquent, they could actually serve a public good—provide natural space for children to play, learn and grow; adults to communicate, educate and recuperate and elderly to rest, contemplate and share experiences. For that to be possible, all these parcels of lands should also be recognized as potential community garden spaces or park land and be

turned over to the public to have the land cleared of trash, soil tilled, and trees and flowers planted.

To sum up, I must ask the City Council, whose interests have you been elected to serve: the general public or that of a group of self-interested speculators? I think the answer is obvious. Stand up and represent the nearly 8 and a quarter million people that live and breathe in this city, not the few developers that are using lots as poker chips in a game of speculation. To do that I say protect ALL community gardens, both Green Thumb and non-Green Thumb gardens. To the City Council of New York, I demand that you support Resolution #1890. In addition, I also urge you to consider recognizing the non-Green Thumb community gardens as well and the potential for thousands of abandoned lots to be transformed into community gardens and preserved. Think globally, act locally; reclaim the earth by reclaiming urban space for natural public use! Thank you!

Philipp M. Rassmann

285 Fort Washington Ave #24  
New York City 10032  
prassmann@gmail.com  
SMS: 646.938.9089

New York City, June 24, 2009

To: Gary Altman  
Legislative Council  
Council of the City of New York  
250 Broadway, 15th Floor  
New York NY 10007

**Re: 24 June 2009 City Council Community Gardens Hearing**

My name is Pat McCarty. I belong to the Warren St Marks Community garden in Brooklyn. This garden is a pleasant little place to rest and enjoy a quiet moment away from the busyness of the city; it is a great place to have a cup of coffee and read the daily paper or a good book.

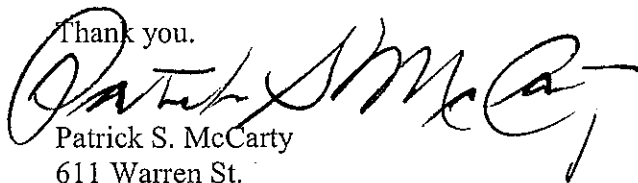
It is much more to me than a city park. Warren St Marks Community Garden is a magnet that brings our neighborhood together, to grow food, to socialize. It is a personal place to join with friends and neighbors in community.

And isn't that the point? Today, we are hearing testimony about community gardens. Take a look at that word community. The prefix "com-" meaning 'with'; and the root word "unity" meaning 'oneness.' With oneness; in harmony; shared togetherness.

Community gardens are more personally special places than city parks. For many years, neighbors have come together to make abandoned lots green oases, literally and figuratively nourishing spirit as well as health.

It is hoped that the New York State Attorney General's 2002 agreement will be extended in perpetuity, to preserve and protect our community gardens. I do ask that resolution 1890, <sup>PSM</sup> and ~~its sibling resolution 1033~~, be reviewed and enacted. I would like to know that our representatives and our community gardens work in harmony. I would like to feel the comfort that when I am gone, the Warren St Marks Community Garden, as well as so many other city community gardens, will continue to be special places for shared togetherness.

Thank you.



Patrick S. McCarty  
611 Warren St.  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

Testimony of Yetta Kurland

June 24, 2009

Committee on Parks and Recreations: Community Gardens

Dear Chair and Committee on Parks and Recreation:

In light of the Attorney General's agreement to protect Community Gardens expiring in 2010 I am here today to ask for this body to create protections on a local level for Community Gardens. Community Gardens offer vital resources to our community. As we spend much time planning and talking about "greening" New York City and creating more green spaces, Community Gardens offer us an immediate, working, community based, affordable blue print. Gardens offer numerous benefits to local neighborhoods. They are an oasis for us to escape from the urban jungle, they teach our children about ecology, sustainability and responsibility. They connect us to our communities and give us a sense of pride. They also offer opportunities to empower and sustain our communities through growing food that is affordable and healthy. If anyone does not understand the profound importance of community gardens, I suggest they take an afternoon and a good book and visit one of the many, including the Clinton Community Garden located in my district.

I am here to ask for your help in strengthening and preserving our Community Gardens, and to appreciate the profound assets of these gardens as we face an ever more bleak environmental forecast. This is not a luxury but a necessity. We must seek to find more places for Community Gardens such as vacant lots and property languishing in our City. We must understand the profound financial benefits in promoting Community Gardens in our City planning and ensure their proper funding, and we must ensure that these gardens are mapped as such so that they will be protected over time. Thank you for time today.

**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: 6-24-09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Veronique Hakim

Address: 2 Broadway

I represent: MTA Capital Construction Company

Address: 2 Broadway, NYC 10004

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Patrick S. McCarthy

Address: 611 Warren St Brooklyn NY

I represent: Warren St Marks Community

Address: Garahan

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1890 Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 24 June, 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Philip J. Kassman

Address: 20511 Fort Washington Ave #24 NY

I represent: Morris Samuelson Garden / Children's 10032

Address: 63rd St NYC / Margaret Garden

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1890 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: June 24 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ellen Belcher

Address: 285 Fort Washington Ave #24

I represent: NYC CGC, Childrens Magical Garden

Address: Ell St, Norfolk/Stanton St

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rachael Brody

Address: 458 1st St 3F Brooklyn, NY 11215

I represent: 611 Hodges Community Garden - Carroll St & Denton Pl

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Susan Howard

Address: 188 Norfolk St. 5-g

I represent: Childrens Magical Garden

Address: Norfolk & Stanton Streets - Manhattan

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: June 24, 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Karla Osorio - Perez

Address: 2528 Broadway #408 NY NY 10025

I represent: Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Address: 1000 Washington Ave. Brooklyn NY 11225

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Lynne Serpe

Address: 340 35th St #1R

I represent: Two Coves Community Garden

Address: ASTORIA

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aresh JAVADI

Address: 79 Clinton St #17, NY, NY, 10002

I represent: NYCCGC & More Gardens!

Address: 250 East 139th St, BX, NY, 10451

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms



**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: JACK LINN

Address: ASST. COMMISSIONER

I represent: NYC DEPT OF PARKS & RECREATION

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: URSULA CHANSE

Address: The New York Botanical Garden

I represent: Brnx Green-Up, The New York Botanical Garden

Address: Brnx, NY 10458

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Rhoma MOSTEL

Address: 100 SWILIVAN ST #4B

I represent: LA Guardia Corner Gardens (a greenhouses garden)

Address: Boecker St + La Guardia Place, Manhattan

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**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: Sheelah Feinberg

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

I represent: New Yorkers for Parks

Address: 355 Lexington Ave 14th floor NY, NY 10017

**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: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Devanic Jackson

Address: 255 Bainbridge St

I represent: Bed Stuy Farm / Brooklyn Rescue Mission

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HAVA WORLEY

Address: 216 W. 122nd St

I represent: NYCCSC & Project HARMONY

Address: 219 W. 122nd St

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 100 Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: ALAN GINSBERG

Address: 87 St. Mark Place, NYC, NY 10003

I represent: (NYCCOC) NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN COMITE

Address: 132 EAST 11<sup>th</sup> St. NYC, NY 10003

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Sarita Dattam

Address: 613 New Lots Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207

I represent: East New York Farms

Address: same as above

**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: Catherine Kord

Address: 231 E. Seventh Street

I represent: Sam and Sadie Koenig Garden

Address: 237 E. Seventh Street

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

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: 24 June 09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SUR RODNEY SUR

Address: 368 E 8 #6C

I represent: GARDEN OASIS

Address: ~~WEST~~ ST 8TH STREET. (BROWN etc)

THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: PETER CRAMER

Address: 245 E. 2nd ST. #6

I represent: LE PETIT VERSAILLES GARDEN

Address: 346 EAST 100th ST.

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: June 24, 2009

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOHANNA EWILLINS

Address: 537 MILLER AVE

I represent: HERBAL GARDEN & ENG

Address: 289 Schenck 2008

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 06/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dominique Bouillon  
Address: 46 Lefferts Pl. #1A Bklyn NY 11238  
I represent: Brooklyn's Finest Garden  
Address: 48 Lefferts Pl. Brooklyn NY  
11238

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Zack Schulman  
Address: 1399 Pacific St. #4 Brooklyn NY 11216  
I represent: Green Guerrillas  
Address: 677 Lafayette Ave Brooklyn NY  
11216

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kendall Morrison  
Address: 130 Palmetto St  
I represent: Earth Matters NY  
Address: 130 Palmetto St

**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: EDIE STONE

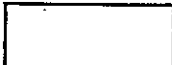
Address: DIRECTOR, GREENTHUMB

I represent: NYC DEPT OF PARKS & RECREATION

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

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. 1890 Res. No. \_\_\_\_\_

in favor  in opposition

Date: 6-24-09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SARA JONES

Address: 171 THOMPSON ST NYC

I represent: LA GUARDIA CORNER GARDENS

Address: 511 LaGuardia Place NYC

**THE COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card



I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Res. No. 1890

in favor  in opposition

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

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KAREN WASHINGTON

Address: 2161 Prospect Ave Bx NY

I represent: NYC Community Garden Coalition

Address: 2161 Prospect Ave Bx 12451

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**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: Donald Williams

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

I represent: Phoenix Garden Home PS/15 155

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: Asia Joyner

Address: 4

I represent: Phoenix Garden Home

Address: Jane

**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: 6/24/09

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Yetta Kurland

Address: 161 W. 16<sup>th</sup> St. #5C

I represent: myself

Address: same

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms