



**Hearing before the New York City Council
Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions and Concessions
Christopher Park
June 2, 2016**

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

Good morning, Chair Dickens and members of the Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions & Concessions. My name is Matt Drury, Director of Government Relations for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Thank you for inviting me to testify in support of the proposed transfer of Christopher Park to the federal government.

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

National park units can be created by Congressional legislation or by Presidential designation under the provisions of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Antiquities Act allows the President to establish national park units from existing federal lands, meaning that a piece of real property needs to be under the jurisdiction of the federal government before a designation of this sort can be made. NYC Parks supports the necessary actions that will facilitate this designation, in this instance, the City Council's consideration and approval of the transfer of Christopher Park to the federal government.

If a national park unit is formally designated, the National Park Service and the City will engage in a collaborative relationship with shared operational goals resulting in an effective management system for the protection and interpretation of this site. The City will enter into a Cooperative Management Agreement with NPS to establish a framework enabling both entities to work jointly to protect, preserve, interpret and maintain



NYC Parks

Christopher Park as a national park that will continue to thrive as a neighborhood open space resource.

Under the envisioned management system, the City will continue to perform daily routine maintenance, open and close the park, continue to preserve and care for the Park's public art, and perform preventive maintenance. NPS will maintain current hours (and consult with the community if changes to such hours are contemplated), and continue to use the current designated park name (Christopher Park). NPS will request additional operational funding in order to supplement and/or replace City funding over time, seek capital funds for projects as appropriate, establish formal relationships through signed agreements with the current partner organization that provides volunteer support for the Park, and develop a management plan with full public involvement to address long-term approaches to operations, programming, education and interpretation of the national park unit consistent with its established purpose.

Pursuant to Section 72-h of the New York State General Municipal Law, on May 26, 2016, notice was issued to the City Council regarding the Mayor's authorization of the disposition of real property located at Block 592, Lot 87 in the borough of Manhattan, known as Christopher Park, to the federal government. NYC Parks is here today to express its support for this disposition and to respectfully request the City Council's consideration and approval of this transfer.

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

Site Location Map with Photographs Keyed

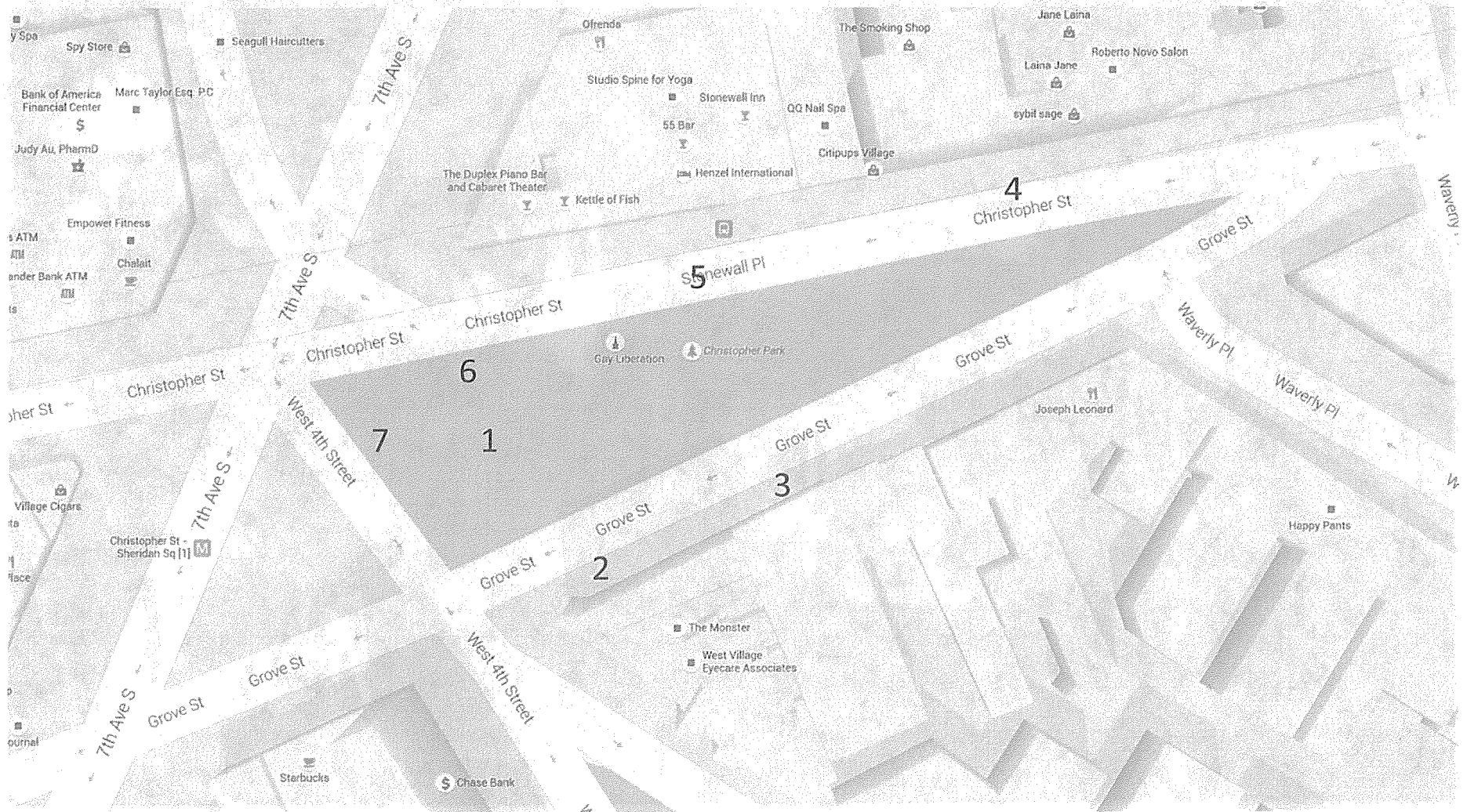




Image 1



Image 2



Image 3



Image 4



Image 5



Image 6



Image 7

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Name: Lacey Hirschfeld

Address: 16 Court St, Brooklyn, NY

I represent: Various Buses on Greene

Address: Various

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NY NY
I represent: Bronx Brooklyn HDPS
Address: ~~New York State HDPS~~

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Name: ~~Barba~~ Barba HDW Asst Comm
Address: 100 Gold St Govt Relations
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Name: FRANZ HEWITT

Address: 600 West 133rd Street, Apt. 2E, NYC 10027

I represent: NEW YORK CITY Housing Res. without an elev. (part)

Address: 100 Gold Street, New York, NY 10002

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Name: Baaba Halim, Asst Comm / Gov't

Address: 100 Gold St Relations

I represent: HPD

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Name: Lo Lunch

Address: Wilson Pabaly LLP 437 Madison Ave NY NY

I represent: New York City Dept. of Health

Address: _____

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Name: IRVING HEWITT

Address: 100 West 133rd Street

I represent: NYC HPD

Address: 100 West 133rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10027

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Name: LENNY (PLEASE PRINT) SELF

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I represent: HPD

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Name: Justin Boutlier (PLEASE PRINT)

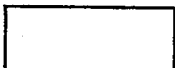
Address: 200 Gold Street 919

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Name: JACQUIN SACHS (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 100 GOLDST.

I represent: HPD

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I represent: HPD

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Name: Matthew Drury

Address: 830 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY

I represent: NYC Parks

Address: 830 Fifth Avenue, NY, NY

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Name: Christopher Kiri (PLEASE PRINT)

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I represent: Asia American for Equality

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