



**Hearing before the New York City Council
Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: The Private Use of Public Parkland: Do Large Scale Events
Benefit Parks?
October 3, 2013**

**Testimony By:
Betsy Smith, Assistant Commissioner for Revenue & Marketing**

Good afternoon, Chair Mark-Viverito and members of the City Council's Committee on Parks and Recreation. I am Betsy Smith, Assistant Commissioner for Revenue & Marketing at the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. I am joined today by senior staff from the Parks Department, including First Deputy Commissioner Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Commissioner for Community Outreach, Larry Scott Blackmon, and Director of Government Relations, Karen Becker. Thank you for allowing me to speak today about events that take place on parkland and the benefits they provide to New Yorkers.

Every day the Parks Department works hard to balance the variety of interests of a large and diverse group of park users on the City's 29,000 acres of parkland, from high school sporting events to family days, concerts, festivals, charity athletic walks and runs, volunteer clean ups, and literary readings. New Yorkers love their public spaces and have an inexhaustible desire to gather in their parks for a myriad of reasons. In a city of 8.4 million residents, we try to accommodate as many uses as possible, both through specifically designated areas like dog runs, playgrounds and sports fields, and through a balanced use of other open areas. The Parks Department manages the frequency and impact of activities on these open spaces through our special event permitting process.

Due to the sheer number of requests for special events — the agency issued over 16,000 special event permits in calendar year 2012 — the Parks Department must and does maintain a simple, clear process for managing special events. Permission for any gathering of more than twenty people on parkland, whether a birthday party or a 60,000 person Great Lawn concert, begins with a special event permit application through the Parks Department's website and payment of a \$25 application fee. Completed permit applications are routed through the appropriate Borough Special Events office, where they are vetted by the park manager to ensure that the venue requested is available and appropriate for the event. Events with fewer than 500 expected attendees, which require no elaborate set up, and are not promotional or commercial in nature, are managed by the respective borough staff. But events with more than 500 expected attendees, or that are promotional or commercial in nature are often more complex, require additional coordination with other City agencies, and have a greater impact on Parks property. These larger events are managed by the Parks Citywide Special Events Office and reviewed, as needed, by our General Counsel's office as their complexity necessitate a contract, damage bonds, and typically insurance.

Of the 16,000 special event permits, the vast majority are comprised of small events like family picnics and similar gatherings. This number does not include events at concessioned or leased properties, such as the stadia across the City, and the more than 6,400 ball field permits issued by Parks. Only 112 out of 16,000 special events permits are for events with more than 500 expected attendees.

For this small subset of large events with more than 500 expected attendees, in almost every instance, the Parks Department's Citywide Special Events office works with the applicant, the Park Manager, any relevant nonprofit partner, and all other appropriate City agencies such as NYPD, DOB, FDNY or DOH and the Mayor's Office of Citywide Event Coordination & Management to coordinate the event. However, the final authority to issue

permits always resides with the Parks Department. The Parks Department's policy is to not issue a special event permit until it has an executed contract with the special event organizer, has received a detailed logistics plan for the event, the appropriate damage bond, concession fee, and proof of appropriate insurance, and all required permits or approvals from other governmental agencies.

In addition to the \$25 application fee, the Parks Department charges additional fees to organizers of special events with more than 500 expected attendees or for events that are commercial or promotional in nature, in accordance with the Parks Department's Concession Fee Schedule, which is available on the Parks Department website. The fees from this schedule have been in place for many years and are based on impact on the park. Accordingly, the fees are higher for special events in the most heavily used parks, where more people are impacted, and for special events that have the greatest impact from commercial signage, tenting, or amplified sound.

Out of the 112 events with more than 500 people — the size that triggers this different process —approximately 45 permits were issued for very large events, concerts for more than 8000 people or events spanning multiple days. The Parks Department's rules dictate how these events are priced. Most of these events are priced off our Concession Fee Schedule. However, certain events because of their size or duration are priced by negotiation. The Park rules require the negotiations to be based on factors such as city services required, and other elements that impact the public in a material way. The principal purpose of these fees is not to generate revenues per se but to offset the impact to the park and the public's use, and to cover costs. Large events of this size, with negotiated fees happen only a few times per year. 2012 saw GoogaMooga in Prospect Park, the Global Citizens Festival in Central Park's Great Lawn, and 5 events on the festival grounds on Randall's Island. Thus far, in 2013, there have been GoogaMooga and Worldwide Day of Play in Prospect Park, the Global Citizens Festival and the Major League Baseball All Star Charity Concert in Central Park and the Governors Ball, the Frieze Art Fair, and the Electric Zoo at Randall's Island.

During any large event, City staff closely monitor the entirety of the event, from the start of load in to the end of load out, ensuring that vehicles are brought into the park in a safe manner, landscapes and trees are protected and the event set up is done according to plan. When the event begins, we ensure that security is in their proper locations, and that lines are moving in a safe manner and liaise with onsite medical personnel. We constantly check-in with other agency representatives that might be on site to address any concerns in real time.

After an event, we work with the producers to ensure the timely dismantling of equipment, reopening of space, and cleaning. We also perform a walk through both before and after an event with the event organizer and nonprofit partner to assess any damage and ensure that any damage is fully corrected by the event organizer. Following an event we assess its execution. We take this opportunity to review any issues that might have emerged and work with the organizer to correct any operational flaws.

Nearly all special events held on parkland are free and open to the public. A handful of special events are free but ticketed, such as GoogaMooga this past May 18th and 19th and the Global Citizens Festival on the Great Lawn this past Saturday. Distributing free tickets, a practice endorsed by the NYPD, manages the number of attendees a venue can accommodate and promotes public safety. Our Citywide Special Events office works closely with the organizer of the event to make sure that free tickets are made available to the general public in an equitable manner.

The City maintains a very limited number of locations for paid entry, including the festival grounds, known as the Harlem River Event Site, at Randall's Island, Rumsey Playfield in Central Park and the Bandshell at Prospect Park. These areas are specifically designed to have controlled access. Indeed, Randall's Island has an area that serves as the City's

principal festival grounds and is the site of virtually all of the large, paid ticketed music festivals and concerts, as well as the occasional, private or ticketed event such as the Frieze Art Fair. In 2013, we had 5 large restricted access or paid ticketed events, 4 of which were on Randall's Island. Having this designated, discrete area is a benefit to all New Yorkers. Without this designated outdoor space, large outdoor concerts and festivals, enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people, simply could not exist in New York City.

In some circumstances, our non-profit partner is entitled to receive proceeds from special events or ticket sales from these events, and Randall's Island is one of those entities. Ticket revenue is then reinvested by them in that park.

Large events enliven park space, introduce a park to new users, and provide cultural and entertainment amenities to a community. And lest we forget, large events occur because New Yorkers demand them, and turn out in large numbers to enjoy them. In this year alone, over 400,000 people enjoyed our large events.

There has been a long tradition of holding large events in city parks from iconic concerts to the marathon to large cultural festivals like Cinco de Mayo in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, and we intend to maintain this tradition of providing all New Yorkers with the excitement and stimulation of large events. So, we welcome special events, large and small, and do our best to accommodate as many different uses as possible while minimizing impact on the park.

I want to thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.



Terrance C. Holliday
Commissioner

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New York, NY 10013

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Melissa Mark-Viverito
Chair
New York City Council
Parks Committee
250 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10007

*Lead
Parks
Parks*
October 3, 2013

Re: Statement of Support

Dear Chair Mark- Viverito:

I would like to take an opportunity to support Intro-1011-2013, a local law amending the City map to rename South Road- from Merrick Blvd to Remington Street in the Borough of Queens to Tuskegee Airman Way.

While the history of the Tuskegee Airmen is well known to most of us today, that wasn't the case for me growing up in Harlem as the postwar son of an army combat veteran. It wasn't until the late 1980's that I became aware of my own personal connection to this distinguished organization. My uncle and several close family friends were Tuskegee Airmen and served honorably during WWII. The significance of their accomplishments was cleverly hidden from public view. They fought to be recognized by their leadership - meanwhile many of those same leaders consciously denied these warriors the opportunity to succeed, or to fail.

Relegated to routine patrols with little, if any, likelihood of enemy contact, the "All- Negro "99th Fighter Squadron (Separate) encountered enemy aircraft over the beaches of Anzio on January 27- 28, 1943. The result was the destruction of 12 enemy aircraft. It's instructive at this time that the Army Air Corps was prepared to conclude the "Tuskegee Experiment", as it was called, a failure. These two days of intense combat changed the destiny of these men, and in many respects, our nation.

The Tuskegee Airman flew on to greater accomplishments during and after the conclusion of the war. Many called New York City home--- including our own Lee Archer, Harry Sheppard, Dr. Roscoe Brown, the Honorable Percy Sutton, and his colleagues hired by the Metropolitan Transit Authority- Reginald T. Brewster, Victor A. Collymore, Conrad A. DeSandies, Harry R. Dickenson, John R. Freeman, Noel R. Harris, Oscar W. Hawkins, Austin D. McKenzie, Maury M. Reid, Jr., Percy E. Sutton, Victor W. Terrelonge and Fred O. Wilson. It should be noted that the MTA East 100th Maintenance facility was renamed in the honor of the Tuskegee Airman in March, 2012.

There is a great value to us all when we honor our heroes. Such is this tribute to rename South Street to Tuskegee Airman Way. We owe a great deal to these men, as well as, to the millions of men and women, who protected our freedoms wearing the uniforms of our armed forces.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to add my voice to your efforts. I sincerely appreciate your efforts and those of your colleagues. My best wishes for success.

Sincerely,

Terrance C. Holliday, Colonel, retired, USAF

cc: CM Reuben Wills, Dist 28, Queens



**New York City Council Parks & Recreation Committee
Oversight Hearing on Large Events in Parks**

October 3, 2013

I am Alyson Beha, Director of Research, Planning & Policy at New Yorkers for Parks, an independent research-based organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods. Thank you for hosting today's hearing to discuss large events in parks.

New York City's parks are home to more than 8,000 special events each year, hundreds of which are classified as "large events," or those with 500-plus attendees. Overall, New Yorkers for Parks believes that special events in parks are a good thing: they provide a broad spectrum of opportunities many New Yorkers would not otherwise have. From concerts to marathons, sports tournaments to dragon boat races, these diverse events draw New Yorkers into their parks, enlivening the spaces, bringing neighbors together and creating a sense of community, and encouraging people to care about and become engaged with their parks. While high profile events in Central, Bryant, and Prospect Parks sometimes draw headlines, smaller events take place every weekend in neighborhood parks across the five boroughs. On Coney Island, Friends of Leon Kaiser Park hosts an annual Easter egg hunt, Christmas tree lighting, and senior day, and residents of Queensbridge Houses enjoy opera concerts in Queensbridge Park each summer.

More often than not, events run smoothly and have minimal impact on a park's landscape, other park-users, or neighbors. But it is important that the Parks Department's guidelines for assessing and approving events, especially large events, are transparent and accessible so that the public is aware of

them, and that there is clear accountability when events do not go as planned. Events in parks should not prohibit non-participants' access to and use of the park, and the frequency of events in a single park should be closely managed so that no single park is overrun by activities that detract from its environment or exclude other uses on an extended basis. In addition, protecting public safety must be a paramount consideration. Our understanding is that such factors are currently taken into account, and we encourage the Parks Department to publicize these and other criteria it uses to assess proposed events.

Such transparency can be achieved largely by enhancing the Special Events section of the Parks Department's website. The department should provide more details about the process and rules for hosting large events, publish a seasonal calendar of all large events on their website, and make a clearer distinction between the process and rules for events hosting between 20 and 500 people, and those for large events with more than 500 attendees. In addition, the public should have information about how event sponsors are held accountable when problems arise. Sponsors of large events must enter into a contract with the City, and the parameters of those agreements, as well as the requirements imposed upon the sponsors, should be explained on DPR's website.

One more thing: in rare instances, it may be determined retrospectively that a specific event is too damaging to a park or threatening to public safety to be repeated. The Parks Department should be proactive about assessing problematic events when they occur and making firm and timely decisions about how problems can be mitigated in the future, or the event should be eliminated altogether.

Some of the city's most iconic public events over the past century have been held in parks, and there's no doubt that park events are a rich part of neighborhood life in all five boroughs. We encourage the Parks Department to enhance its communication about the guidelines and rules governing large events in parks, including the contractual remedies that are in place to hold event sponsors accountable in the rare instances when problems do occur.



Made Event
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made-event.com

FTR

Testimony (submitted) from Mike Bindra owner of Made Event, LLC and Laura De Palma, owner of EZ Festivals, LLC

Dear Chair Melissa Mark-Viverito and members of the New York City Council Parks and Recreation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for your hearing on the use of public parks for large gatherings. We apologize we were unable to attend the hearing. Given the stated focus of your hearing, we have focused our comments on our relationship with Randall's Island and the surrounding community.

For five years, we have been fortunate enough to hold our event, Electric Zoo, on Randall's Island, and look forward to many more years ahead. We believe our event has been a positive force for the park, helping to transform its main lawn into a proper public space that is on par with the best parks in the city. We believe we are not just renting space, but are part of the Randall's Island community and must be careful stewards of the park. We have not just left the park as we found it, but have helped make it better over the years.

We believe the information presented in our testimony will make clear that we take our role as park stewards seriously, that we go well beyond the requirements of our contract to give back to the park, and have embraced the local community to ensure the benefits of our event last beyond the few days that acts perform on stage.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS PROVIDED BY EZ FESTIVALS, LLC AND ELECTRIC ZOO

Since the first Electric Zoo event was held in 2009, EZ Festivals, LLC has led a concerted effort to invest in Randall's Island as well as the community surrounding Randall's Island. These investments, which were not required by contract, have included:

YEAR	WORK DONE	AMOUNT SPENT
2010	Grass Improvement	\$3,200.00
2011	Grass Improvement	\$44,548.71
2012	Grass Improvement	\$12,584.07
2013	Atlantic Irrigation	\$1,387.19
	Delea Sod Farms	\$2,538.38
	Turfgrass Consulting	\$7,948.50

TOTAL		\$72,206.85

Rental fees for Randall's Island:

YEAR	RENTAL FEES
2009	Paid By Made Event LLC \$150,000.00
2010	Paid by EZ Festivals, LLC \$180,000.00
2011	Paid by EZ Festivals, LLC \$325,000.00
2012	Paid by EZ Festivals, LLC \$325,000.00
2013	Paid by EZ Festivals, LLC \$600,000.00
TOTAL	\$1,580,000.00

The festival also provides good jobs for the local community. On each of the three show days, approximately 2,000 people are employed at Electric Zoo, and we are proud that many of these are good union jobs. Union workers are also employed in fluctuating numbers throughout the three weeks leading up to the show and throughout the week following the festival for load out. In 2013, Electric Zoo paid approximately **\$1.45 million** in union labor fees.

As Electric Zoo grew, we were able to increase the amount of money – on top of rental fees – going back to the park.

YEAR	DONATIONS
2010	\$50,000.00
2011	\$111,202.50
2012	\$156,211.50
2013	\$110,667.00 <i>(Estimate)</i>
TOTAL	\$428,081.00

These dollars have fully funded the FLOW Art NYC program (through 2014) as well as additional park beautification and stewardship.

FLOW is an annual summer art exhibition along the shoreline at Randall's Island Park aimed at fostering appreciation of the shoreline through artistic expression, while calling visitors to interact with and care for the Park's island environment.

In addition to the monies raised through Electric Zoo, Made Event, LLC will soon send significant dollars to three area charities through its NY Made benefit concert which was held earlier this summer.

The Bronx Museum of the Arts

The Bronx Museum of the Arts connects diverse audiences to the urban experience through its permanent collection and special contemporary art exhibitions. The Museum's education department welcomes over 10,000 students annually through the Group Visits Program, where students are guided through the Museum by teaching artists followed by a hands-on creative art activity. The Group Visits Program often represents the first time many students have visited a cultural institution. A teacher remarked in a written evaluation that the Group Visits taught how the visual arts can serve as "political expression and as a

medium for social change, giving kids an opportunity to express their own interpretations." Currently 75 Bronx schools participate in the Group Visits Program, and with additional support, we look forward to reaching many more students in the Bronx.

The Mariachi Academy of New York

The Mariachi Academy of New York (MANY) is a non-profit 501c3 organization devoted to preserving the rich heritage of mariachi to youth in New York. It intends to develop the skills in musical training, discipline, creativity and self-esteem while strengthening language, team working skills and a strong sense of identity. The idea for the Mariachi Academy came from Queens-based father-son musicians Ramon Ponce Sr. and Jr. of the popular Mariachi Real de Mexico with support from the Center for Traditional Music & Dance (CTMD) and several other organizations. The Mariachi Academy opened its doors in July of 2002. Since its inception the Mariachi Academy has served over 600 students. There are currently 200 students enrolled in the Academy with a rapidly growing waiting list. Classes meet three times a week after school at St Paul School located at 114 East 118th Street in New York, NY.

Urban Farm

Urban Farm, a program of The Randall's Island Park Alliance In the heart of NYC there are limited green spaces where one can re-connect to the land and the origins of their food - the Urban Farm on Randall's Island is one of those few special places. The Farm consists of an organic garden, rice paddy, apple orchard, green house, chicken coop and outdoor kitchen, and it offers free community programming. Last year, over 1,000 children partook in the Farm's edible education program. The Randall's Island Park Alliance's dedicated horticulture professionals provide children and adults alike with a hands-on learning experience that focuses on organic gardening and the preparation of healthy nutritious meals.

In closing, let us once again thank you and the committee for the opportunity to share this information with you. We trust you will agree that we have worked hard, and successfully, to be careful park stewards and members in good standing with the local community. Again, we know this hearing was focused on the broad question of the use of public parks for large gatherings, which is why we have limited our testimony to these issues. We recognize that the incidents at our most recent event have raised questions about health and safety procedures for large gatherings. Should the committee decide to review those issues, we would be happy to share with the committee information about the steps we took to provide as safe an event as possible over Labor Day Weekend as well as the safeguards we will continue to implement going forward.

Thank you.

Testimony to NY City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation

Robert Bate – President – Brooklyn Bird Club

robsbate@gmail.com

212-505-0011

“Oversight: the Private Use of Public Parkland: Do Large Scale Events Benefit Parks?” October 3, 2013

I testify today as President of the Brooklyn Bird Club, an organization whose membership has been birding Prospect Park, keenly aware of its natural rhythms, for over 100 years. Old timers in the birding community talk of the migrations of their younger days and bemoan the steep decline of bird populations in general and the disappearance from the park, during migration seasons, of once common species.

Our great urban parks are crucial refuge, centrally located in our metropolitan landscape of roofs and streets. They welcome a broad array of birds each spring and autumn during their great migration seasons. Many of these bird species, which are already threatened by habitat loss in their Northern Canadian breeding grounds as well as their South American wintering grounds, must migrate up the Atlantic Flyway along the east coast of North America where they must contend with loss of safe habitat in our urbanized and suburbanized landscape.

Prospect Park serves these creatures much like Central Park does and is what is known as a “migrant trap.” Songbirds do little besides fly and eat during each migration season. They fly during the nighttime hours and, when the sun comes up each day they must find habitat where they can find enough food to bulk up for the next leg of their journey and also find safe cover where they can rest their weary and depleted bodies. When they find themselves over our city at sunrise they all funnel into our green park woodlands and meadows and, as a result, we have an exponentially higher concentration of birds in our limited acreages than you could expect to find elsewhere along the flyway during migrations. Both Central and Prospect Park are recognized officially as Important Bird Areas. The migrating creatures depend on our parks for safety and nourishment even more that we humans do.

The very height of the spring migration season is the middle weeks of May each year with International Migratory Bird Day, a birder’s day of environmental obligation, falling this year on May 11th. The Great Googa-Mooga festival of food and music was scheduled in Prospect Park this year on the 17th, 18th and 19th of May and, because the event involved the installation of industrial scale restaurant equipment, supplies and refrigeration units as well as a large rock and roll performance stage and sound system with its speaker towers, they began the set up over a week before opening day beginning on Wednesday May 8th. The event itself was held in the Nethermead, the meadow in the very natural heart of Prospect Park bordered by

our hills and densest woodlands on all sides and the brooks and waterways that flow from Fallkill Falls just west of the meadow and ending in the Lullwater and Lake on the east and south sides. Fencing barricades were erected immediately upon the commencement of set up and excluded all people except the set up crews and their equipment from the large festival area. The event equipment was so massive that it had to be brought in by tractor trailer trucks which, besides being incredibly loud, noxious and disruptive, were often driven right onto the meadow proper over protection that was doomed to be inadequate given the industrial scale of the operation and the delicate nature of the natural area they were occupying.

Delicate and beautiful natural areas like the Nethermead and its surrounding woodlands are naturally attractive to corporate event sponsors like Superfly Productions, the GoogaMooga sponsor; music, good food and beer under a sunny sky and a starry night are an obvious draw. However, this habitat exists precisely because industrial scale productions have not been there with their huge vehicles, diesel generators, commercial refrigeration equipment and massive crowds.

Wildlife and habitat simply cannot closely coexist with such industrial scale installations. The traffic, the noise and the pollution are too disruptive and the woodlands and meadows songbirds depend on during this crucial migration time were destroyed for their use thereby reducing their already drastically compromised migratory stopover habitat.

After this year's event, which had to cancel its Sunday activities due to rain that is surely to be expected during early spring, the load out of festival equipment took the entire following week. From first set up to last load out the natural woodland and meadow was lost to all of us, both wild and human, for 16-17 days. Additionally, the inevitable repairs to the lawn areas were only really able to recover recently after the damaged areas were reseeded when a next event, Nickelodeon's Day of Play, occupied the Nethermead - now during the height of the returning fall migration season.

There are four specific objections to the GoogaMooga event in particular but they are generally applicable to any industrial scale event or production proposed for natural woodland areas:

First, it is poorly conceived. Rock and Roll and restaurants are well represented in New York City, an entertainment and food capital of the world. We have Barclay's Center right here in Brooklyn, we have the Jacob Javits Center, we even have the Flushing Meadows Tennis Center should you need to gather multiple acts and restaurants together. These are venues more suited to handle the required equipment and crowds such events attract.

Second, the event is simply too large for a delicate and already overused natural environment. If it were for 2 thousand rather than 10 thousand people per day it would

might be less onerous and disruptive to wildlife and human communities dependent on the natural areas.

Third, its placement, in the natural heart of the park, is all wrong. A large gathering in an idyllic setting with music and food and other consumables is an understandable attraction and has been a common idea ever since Woodstock. It is, perhaps, an innocent enough fantasy in itself and, though it is much easier to get people here than to Max Yazgur's farm in upstate New York, there are real costs that others have to bear, specifically the people and wildlife who are displaced for the event's duration. Natural settings are rare in New York City, music and food venues are not.

And Fourth, its timing is all wrong, especially as it coincided this year with spring migration. Were it held a month later, in June, the migrating birds would have already passed through and the rains would also have been less inevitable.

Reduce its scope and move it to the Band shell, an area already taken from the natural areas and converted to an organized entertainment venue during the reign of Robert Moses. Hold it at a different time of year but please don't compromise the unique quality of our remaining and ever shrinking urban natural woodland areas during this most crucial and sensitive time.

Habitat is threatened worldwide due to the same pressures that exist right here. Open natural spaces are tempting and are easy to exploit and we are often too late to understand and realize what we have lost in the process. Species are threatened with extinction in our area and, relatedly, we are threatened by rising seas and climate change as evidenced by last year's Superstorm Sandy which devastated our shores and brought down hundreds of trees in Prospect Park.

There is a problem inherent in public/private partnerships. The Prospect Park Alliance stepped in to save the park from the decay and neglect that occurred during the hard times of the 1980s. Under Tupper Thomas and now Emily Lloyd's leadership the Alliance has done an astonishingly thorough job restoring the natural areas as well as making the park and public areas inviting and safe.

However, as the Alliance has taken over the day to day operations, the city government has been able to increasingly withdraw financial support from the Dept. of Parks year by year. The Alliance, now responsible for the majority of park operations, has always depended on private fundraising for their budgetary needs. But as their charitable sources have dried up during the recent economic downturn, they have had to resort more and more to corporate entities like Superfly Productions in hopes of turning a profit to help defray the not insignificant costs in running a great urban park. If that strategy had really worked and the Alliance had been able, by hosting these events, to raise the millions necessary to finance as yet unrealized restoration projects like the rehabilitation of the northeast woods or the full restoration of the Tennis House or Maintenance yards or resodding and

restoring our overused meadows or restore the full operations of the Audubon wildlife center or the hiring of all the staff that have been let go in the last number of years or the funding of a Park Ranger squad to help educate and guide people in their park use and interaction, then an event like GoogaMooga, ill conceived as it may be, could possibly be justified. The only real solution to the fiscal problems facing park administration, is a fully and publicly funded New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and an increased commitment to the restoration and preservation of the natural environments within our urban landscape. But, until that time, the sensitive natural center of the park must still be off limits to private corporate extravaganzas like this.

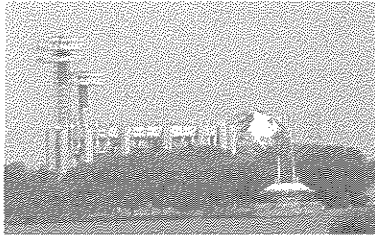
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Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy Inc.
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Phone (718) 544-7436 – Cel (646) 641-1928

October 3, 2013

Testimony on: "The Private Use of Public Parkland

Good afternoon. I would like to thank the City Council's Committee on Parks and Recreation for having this hearing on "The Private Use of Public Parkland: Do Large Scale Events benefit Parks?"

My name is Jean Silva, I am the President of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy

Nonprofit organizations are dedicated to the permanent protection and stewardship of our Parkland and working with the Parks Department and elective offices for the public good.

But over the past several years, our Parkland that host these events have become Damages, Dirty, Disgusting and out of control. We raise important issues :

1. Security and cleanup.
2. Who pays for these services.
3. Who will provide and supervise security and cleanup?
4. Who approves the money to cover NOT ONLY the event, but the damages they cause to the Parks and the surrounding neighbors.
5. Traffic and congestion impacts on our neighbors.
6. We can go on and on.

The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy believes that a successful flow of information, safety, and policing (PEP and Police), will greatly help to improve the use of Park land and with the cooperation of the various groups of concerned individuals we can make our Parkland a more enjoyable experience for all of us.

The Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy looks forward to working with you.

Jean C. Silva
Jean C. Silva, President
FMCP Conservancy

**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: 10/3/2013

Name: Geoffrey Chert (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: NYC PARK ADVOCATES

Address: _____

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THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 10-3-13

Name: Alyson Behn (PLEASE PRINT) New Yorkers for Parks

Address: _____

I represent: _____

Address: _____

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Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 10.3.13

Name: Robert Base (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: 20 W. 12th St. Brooklyn

I represent: Brooklyn Bird Club

Address: www.brooklynbirdclub.com

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

**THE COUNCIL
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I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10-3-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Brian Brady

Address: 395 Hudson St

I represent: N.Y.C. District Council of Carpenters

Address: 395 Hudson St

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Appearance Card

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

in favor in opposition

Date: 10-3-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: CLAYTON SMITH

Address: 504 GRAND ST #124 NY NY 10002

I represent: _____

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: 10/3/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Bernadette McCulloch

Address: 265 W 4th St

I represent: Teamsters Joint Council 16

Address: _____

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: 10-3-13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Patt Terrelonue, Pres. Tuskegee Airmen ^{Local}

Address: 250 Merrick Rd #763, Rockville Ctr.

I represent: Tuskegee Airmen

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: Oct 3, 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Dabney Montgomery

Address: _____

I represent: Tuskegee Airmen - DOTA

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: Oct 3, 2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Wilfred DeFour

Address: _____

I represent: Tuskegee Airmen - DOTA

Address: _____

◆ 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: 10/3/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Betsy Smith, Assistant Commissioner

Address: The Arsenal

I represent: NYC Parks

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: 10/3/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Liam Kavanaugh, First Deputy Commissioner

Address: The Arsenal, Central Park

I represent: NYC Parks

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: 10/3/13

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Larry Scott Blackman, Deputy Commissioner

Address: The Arsenal, Central Park

I represent: NYC Parks

Address: _____

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. 1611 Res. No. _____

in favor in opposition

Date: 10/03/2013

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARVIN R. JEFFCOAT

Address: 50-55 45th STREET

I represent: VFW

Address: _____

◆ 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: JOAN C SILVA

Address: 77-20 Austin Street

I represent: Flushing Meadows Corona Park

Address: Consewamy

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