

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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May 4, 2016
Start: 12:21 a.m.
Recess: 02:08 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E:
DAVID G. GREENFIELD
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
ANDREW COHEN
ANNABEL PALMA
ANTONIO REYNOSO
BEN KALLOS
BRAD S. LANDER
DANIEL R. GARODNICK
DARLENE MEALY
DEBORAH L. ROSE
DONOVAN J. RICHARDS
INEZ D. BARRON
INEZ E. DICKENS
JUMAANE D. WILLIAMS
MARK TREYGER
PETER A. KOO
RITCHIE J. TORRES
ROSIE MENDEZ

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS: (CONTINUED)

RUBEN WILLS

STEPHEN T. LEVIN

VINCENT J. GENTILE

YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ

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

David Gershwin-Gorlin (sp?)
Resident

Bella Ackmeket (sp?)
Resident

Kenya Handy
Assistant Scheduler
Office of New York City Comptroller

Simeon Bankoff
Executive Director
Historic Districts Council

William Zerker [sp?]
Resident

Jennifer Thorpe-Moscon
President
Southern Brooklyn Democrats

Keith Suber
Managing Member
911 Homesavers LLC

Daniel Loannou
Volunteer
Coney Island History Project

Rob Burstein
President
Coney Brighton Boardwalk Alliance

Michael Schwartz
Artistic Director
Coney Art Land Productions

Arlene Brenner
President
Coney Island Boardwalk Alliance

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

Paul King
Resident

Ralph Perfetto
Founder
Coney Island Neighborhood Organization

Mike Gunderson
Resident

Christianna Nelson
Boardwalk Alliance

Judith Kenapa
Friends of Coney Island Brighton Beach Boardwalk

Ida Sanoff
Activist

Tricia Vita
Blogger
Amusing the Zillion

Queenie Hubley
Resident

Jeffrey Croft
President
New York City Park Advocates

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Good afternoon.

My name is David Greenfield. I am the council member from the 44th council district in Brooklyn and I'm privileged to serve as the chair of the Land Use Committee. I want to welcome my esteemed colleagues who are members of the committee, Council Member Palma, Council Member Garodnick, Council Member Mealy, Council Member Mendez, Council Member Koo, Council Member Lander, Council Member Rose, Council Member Richards, Council Member Barron, Council Member Cohen, Council Member Cohen, Council Member Kallos, Council Member Torres, and Council Member Treyger. I want to thank Chair Dickens for the work with the Planning Subcommittee on Monday and Chair Richards for conducting the hearing earlier this morning in the Zoning Subcommittee. I'd also like to thank Chair Koo for his leadership of the Landmarks Subcommittee. The committee will be voting today on one of the resolutions before you for presentation and vote by the full council. That resolution is Land Use number 358, Socrates Sculpture Park in Queens. This application was submitted by the New

1
2 York City Department of City Planning and
3 Recreation. Pursuant to Section 197-C and 199 of
4 the New York City Charter and Section 5-430 of the
5 New York City Administrative Code for an amendment
6 to the city map involving the establishment of
7 Socrates Sculpture Park, the establishment of a
8 public place and the elimination, discontinuance,
9 and closing of portions of 31st Avenue on Broadway.
10 Socrates Sculpture Park is in Long Island City
11 Queens in Council Member Van Bramer's district.
12 Council Member van Bramer spoke at Monday's
13 Planning Subcommittee to express his support for
14 the application. And the Subcommittee recommended a
15 resolution approving this application which we will
16 be voting on today. Do any members have any
17 questions? Socrates Sculpture Park. I'm not quite
18 certain at the origin of the name. However, we are
19 establishing it. It has... it has... it has operated
20 informally as a park. We are establishing it as
21 formal parkland. We're also establishing public
22 place. And we're also going to discontinue portions
23 of 31st Avenue in order to allow for that. And it
24 also involves a swap of some space and air rights.
25 Part of the portion of Socrates Sculpture Park

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2 belongs to a private owner and that is going to be
3 swapped for a portion of the air rights of 31st
4 Avenue which will be a public space so that
5 Socrates Sculpture Park can actually exist as an
6 actual park and so that it can be a complete park.
7 Any other questions. Hearing no other questions,
8 I'm going.. Councilman Mealy, questions, yes.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Yes, I just want
10 for the record since it will be a park it would be
11 nice if it had a comfort station. Just for the
12 record. And they said they will be looking into it
13 but just for the record I hope they can look into
14 that real soon.

15 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: That's... that's
16 an excellent idea. The problem with comfort
17 stations is that the cost of building of comfort
18 stations in New York City is roughly 4,000 dollars
19 a square foot. That's right, you heard me right.
20 It's roughly 4,000 dollars a square foot while the
21 cost of building standard union construction is 400
22 dollars a square foot. So due to a variety of
23 ridiculous regulations that require a 1,000 percent
24 increase in the cost of building a comfort station
25 it is challenging to find the funding to build

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2 those comfort stations. And I will tell you that
3 the Chair of the Parks Department and myself and
4 others have long lamented this and have been
5 working to try to change it. And in fact I'm
6 actually going to be introducing some legislation
7 hopefully within the next few weeks to try to make
8 the cost of comfort stations lower so that we can
9 actually get more of them built in the city. But
10 that is an excellent point Council Member Mealy and
11 duly recognized. Any other questions. Any other
12 questions about Socrates Sculpture Park? Hearing
13 none I will ask the clerk to call the roll.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Kevin Penn,
15 Committee Clerk. Roll call in the Committee on Land
16 Use. Council Member Greenfield.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK PENN: Palma.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK: Dickens.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER DICKENS: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK: Mealy.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER MEALY: Aye.

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Mendez.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Koo.

COUNCIL MEMBER KOO: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Lander.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANDER: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Permission to
explain my vote? Permission to explain my vote?

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Council Member..

[cross-talk] Chair... Chair Richards to explain..

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I just wanted
to... [cross-talk]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...his vote.

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Socrates... True
knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing.
I vote aye.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: So just for the
record Chair Richards do you admit that you know
nothing? Is that what you're saying?

COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: That is what
Socrates said Sir.

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

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CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Oh okay.
COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Chair
Richards.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Barron.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRON: I vote aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Kallos.

COUNCIL MEMBER KALLOS: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Torres.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Permission to
explain my vote? I just want to state that my
favorite course in college was a seminar on
Socrates so...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Did you
graduate from college... [cross-talk]

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: When I went to
college my one year.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Oh one year.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: It was a
freshman honors...

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I heard it was
a great year for your college.

COUNCIL MEMBER TORRES: Yeah. I vote
aye. Thank you.

1 COMMITTEE CLERK: Treyger.

2 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Aye.

3 COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 14 in the
4 affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions,
5 all items have been adopted.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. We
7 are going to keep the vote open. And while we keep
8 the vote open to give members the opportunity to
9 vote we're going to take a short informal five-
10 minute break and then in five minutes or so we will
11 move onto a public hearing on Resolution number 985
12 which is a resolution sponsored by Council Member
13 Mark Treyger which is a resolution calling upon the
14 New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to
15 designate the Riegelmann Boardwalk in Coney Island
16 as a scenic landmark. So we're going to give you
17 folks if you like just so that you know for folks
18 who are here, members of the public we're going to..
19 we're going to give you the opportunity to take a
20 five-minute break because we know some of you have
21 come here early. And for members we're going to
22 keep the vote open and we will continue this
23 hearing in approximately five minutes. Thank you.

24 [pause]
25

COMMITTEE CLERK: Continuation vote in
Committee on Land Use; Council Member Levin.

COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: I vote aye on
all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote stands at 15 in
the affirmative. Council Member Rodriguez.

COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Vote stands at 16 in
the affirmative. Council Member Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: Vote stands at
17 in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Council Member Cohen.

COUNCIL MEMBER COHEN: Aye.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in the
Committee on Land Use 18 in the affirmative, zero
in the negative, and no abstentions.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you. That
concludes the final vote for the item that we have
on the Land Use agenda. And we will now move on to
the public hearing on Resolution 985 calling upon
the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission
to designate the Riegelmann Boardwalk in Coney
Island as a scenic landmark. Just last year we
commemorated the 50th anniversary of the New York

1 City Landmarks Law. The Landmarks Law safeguards
2 the buildings and places that represent New York
3 City's Cultural, Social, economic, political, and
4 architectural history. Landmarks not only foster a
5 civic pride but also strengthen the city's economic
6 economy and enhance the city's attraction of
7 tourists. To be designated a landmark a site must
8 have a special character or a special historical or
9 aesthetic interest or value as part of the
10 development, heritage, or cultural characteristics
11 of the city, state, or nation. Previous scenic
12 landmarks have included Morningside Park and Ocean
13 Parkway. We recognize that preservation is often a
14 grassroots cause driven by communities representing
15 the vast diversity of New York City and we look
16 forward to hearing from such community residents
17 today. As background on the resolution Edward
18 Riegelmann took charge of beautifying Coney Island
19 and sharing public access to the beach and shore
20 while serving as Brooklyn Borough President from
21 1918 to 1924. After the city secured title to
22 property along the beachfront the three-million-
23 dollar beach improvement and boardwalk construction
24 began in 1921. The immense engineering project
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2 required 1.7 million cubic yards of sand to add
3 another 2.5 million square feet to the beach area.
4 Construction of the boardwalk made use of 120,000
5 tons of stone, 77 hundred cubic yards of reinforced
6 concrete and 3.6 million feet of Timber including
7 long leaf yellow pine for the flooring. From a
8 height of 14 feet above the beach the 80-foot-wide
9 boardwalk stretch from West 37th Street to Ocean
10 Parkway and provided easy access to both beach and
11 concessions. The boardwalk opened with great
12 fanfare on May 15th, 1923 and even since has linked
13 the excitement of Coney's Colorful amusements and
14 the sweeping calm of beach and ocean. It's an
15 enduring symbol of New York City and its most
16 famous playground and certainly warrants
17 recognition as an official New York City scenic
18 landmark. This resolution we are considering today
19 recommends that the Landmark Preservation
20 Commission initiate the process to make the
21 boardwalk a scenic landmark. The council broadly
22 supports this resolution. We have 50 out of 51
23 members who have signed on as co-sponsors as well
24 as the public advocate. The... and the reason that
25 all this is happening is because of the tenacity of

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2 one council member who since he has been elected
3 has been the greatest champion of Coney Island in
4 that area. And that council member of course is
5 Councilman Mark Treyger. He's the sponsor of this
6 legislation. I'd like to ask him to please say a
7 few words on his resolution.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Thank you.

9 Thank you very much Chair Greenfield and as well as
10 to the Land Use Committee and the committee staff.
11 I want to thank all of our residents from Southern
12 Brooklyn and across New York for their... for their
13 patience today. I know... know we got off to a late
14 start and I will say it's not the first time Coney
15 Island interests sometimes get delayed due to some
16 Manhattan issues. But I certainly thank everyone
17 for their patience today. To begin with I'd like to
18 express my tremendous gratitude to all the people
19 whose efforts have brought us here today. Once
20 again to Chair Greenfield for holding this
21 important hearing, his staff, and the Land Use
22 Committee staff to all 50... 50 of my council
23 colleagues in the city council including Council
24 Member Salamanca who was just recently elected and
25 recently added his voice to the chorus of support

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2 and Council Member Deutsch with whom I share the
3 boardwalk and we have bordering districts as well
4 as the public advocate for co-sponsoring the
5 resolution under consideration today to speaker
6 Melissa Mark-Viverito to Brooklyn Borough President
7 Eric Adams, to city Comptroller Scott Stringer,
8 Assembly Member Pamela Harris, State Senator Diane
9 Savino and Congressman Hakeem Jeffries for their
10 public statements in support of the Boardwalk to
11 Charles Denson of the Coney Island History Project
12 and Dick Zigun of Coney Island USA who have lent
13 their tremendous knowledge and expertise to this
14 fight and above all to the community members
15 including Ida Sanoff, Rob Burstein, and Arlene
16 Brenner of the Coney Brighton Boardwalk Alliance
17 and so many others whose tireless advocacy has kept
18 this issue alive. All the people gathered here
19 today recognize how vital the Riegelmann Boardwalk
20 is to the Coney Island and Southern Brooklyn in
21 general serving as the neighborhood's connective
22 tissue unifying attractions, businesses, and
23 residents. However, this resolution is about much
24 more than that. This resolution is about preserving
25 an iconic structure that has historically embodied

1 the American democratic spirit. American cultural
2 icons from Woody Guthrie to Woody Allen have
3 prominently featured Coney Island in their work
4 because its fiery scintillation, its grandiosity,
5 and its essential humanity or the physical
6 embodiment of the American dream. However, Coney's
7 history has not always been so inclusive. During
8 the gilded age and into the early 20th century much
9 of Coney Island's landscape was dominated by
10 racially and religiously exclusive private hotels,
11 restaurants, and resorts. The city's decision to
12 build the public boardwalk for the enjoyment for
13 all New Yorkers help transform Coney Island into a
14 Mecca of leisure for the masses who flocked in on
15 newly expanded public transportation. While the
16 original Luna Park, Steeplechase Park, Dreamland,
17 and Adventureland captured both American and
18 international imaginations with their glimmering
19 spectacle it was the boardwalk that was accessible
20 to all visitors in Coney Island's hay day when over
21 a million people visited each day. For immigrants
22 the poor and the marginalized Coney Island was the
23 poor man's Riviera, the nickel empire. The 50 cent
24 admission fee to Steeple Chase and Luna may have
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2 been out of reach but the five cent subway fare was
3 the only cost of entry to what the New York Time
4 then called the brilliant drama of the melting pot
5 at play. Along the boardwalk sample shows of
6 carnival performances, food vendors, and the
7 possibility of meeting someone new supplied the
8 magic. The unprecedented mixture of our races and
9 classes ethnicities along the boardwalk and even
10 under the boardwalk inspired by Oh Henry Isaac
11 Bashevis Singer, many others... In the words of the
12 New York Times it was the most democratic place of
13 assembly in the world anchored by the Riegelmann
14 Boardwalk. The importance of the Riegelmann
15 Boardwalk in American Cultural History should be
16 enough to merit its designation as a landmark,
17 current plans to drastically alter the character
18 and composition of the boardwalk make its
19 designation in exigency. Hobbled by fires and
20 changing demographics Coney Island became a target
21 for ambitious developers and urban planners with
22 autocratic and exclusionary visions for what New
23 York should be in the years following World War II.
24 Many of its spectacular features have been lost in
25 time to remain only in nostalgia. The Riegelmann

1 Boardwalk however remains as a physical reminder of
2 Coney Island's enduring playful democratic spirit
3 and as an active social and recreation hub for the
4 Coney Brighton Community. The desire of distant
5 developers and bureaucrats to impose their designs
6 on Coney Island without seeking community input was
7 unfortunately not limited to the midcentury
8 exploits of Fred Trump and Robert Moses. A
9 similarly outrageous level of Hubertus was on
10 display in 2012 when their notoriously opaque
11 public design commission ignored public outcry and
12 improved a pilot program to replace a segment of
13 the boardwalk with recycled plastic lumber and
14 concrete believing... believing their academic
15 expertise to be superior to the living, breathing,
16 vital experiential knowledge of community members.
17 I am not an expert in landmarks. I do however have
18 a basic sense of fairness. The Landmarks
19 Preservation Commission denied our preliminary
20 application finding the boardwalk to be
21 substantially altered from its original structure
22 to be eligible for protection and preservation. To
23 have one city agency deny the historic and
24 community value of the boardwalk because past
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1 alterations made by the city to the boardwalk
2 failed to prioritize historic preservation or
3 community desires is nothing short of Kafka-esque.
4 Our communities and our history deserve better. I
5 thank my colleagues on the Land Use Committee for
6 their support of this resolution and for the
7 dedicated community members who continue to fight
8 an uphill battle for an earnest commitment to
9 preserving the backbone of Coney Island. And I'll
10 close by saying this. I am so proud of my
11 colleagues we did this without a conservancy. We
12 did this without lobbyists. We did this without
13 multi-millionaires. We did this at the old... the old
14 fashion way at the grass roots level. Just because
15 we don't have a multi-million-dollar conservancy
16 doesn't mean that our history doesn't matter. We
17 matter in Southern Brooklyn just like anywhere
18 else. And I thank the chair for his... his support in
19 having the hearing today.

21 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
22 much and...

23 [applause]

24 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Folks while we...
25 while we certainly appreciate the enthusiasm and

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2 clapping we have a rule here in the city council
3 which is you cannot actually make any noise of any
4 sort. And so if you want to clap we have a council
5 clap which is you can waive your hands like this.
6 And that way we know that you're very excited and
7 thrilled. We're going to have to ask you please not
8 to make any... any noise and we certainly appreciate
9 that. And so I... Councilman Treyger I want to thank
10 you for the work that you've done here. It
11 certainly is extraordinary and I actually will say
12 this is the chair, the land use committee and as
13 someone who's very familiar with the landmark
14 regulations... in fact this would seem to fall
15 squarely within the administrative code's
16 definition of a scenic landmark which is any
17 feature or aggregate of landscape features any part
18 of which is 30 years or older, which... have a
19 special character or special historical or
20 aesthetic interest or value as part of the
21 development, heritage, or cultural characteristics
22 of the city, the state, or the nation. Under every
23 objective reading of the administrative code Coney
24 Island would qualify as a scenic landmark. Other
25 scenic landmarks include Central Park, Varsity

1 Square, Grand Army Plaza, Ocean Parkway,
2 Morningside Park Scenic Landmark, and we... we really
3 have a whole host of scenic landmarks some of which
4 quite frankly would seem to be less important than
5 the iconic status that the boardwalk has on Coney
6 Island. And we are certainly disappointed that the
7 Landmarks Preservation Commission has chosen not to
8 testify at today's hearing however we do appreciate
9 that they sent a representative to hear our
10 concerns and we thank Lauren George for joining us.
11 And we hope that those concerns will be crystal
12 clear that the council... 50 out of 51 members of the
13 city council expect that the process to you,
14 landmark, Coney Island's Boardwalk will begin
15 immediately. With that we're going to call our
16 first panel. We're going to ask our first panelist
17 actually we... we have limited usage of interpreters
18 today and so we're going to ask for those folks who
19 plan on testifying in the Russian language to
20 please join us first as the first panel and to give
21 your name to the Sergeant of Arms. You can come on
22 up if you plan on testifying in the Russian
23 Language so that way we can utilize our
24 interpreters. IF you can give your name we believe
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2 that we have two folks here who have mentioned that
3 they are going to testify in the Russian language
4 and that is David Gershan [phonetic]... Gershwin-
5 Gorlin Excellent. Mr. Gershwin-Gorlin if you can
6 please join us. And Bella Ackmeket if you can
7 please join us as well. And we're also going to
8 invite for the first panel a representative from
9 Comptroller Scott Stringer's Office Kenya Handy.
10 I'm going to ask Council Member Treyger to say what
11 I just said in Russian so that for those folks who
12 may not have understood me to get that message
13 across which is that we'd like for the Russian
14 speakers to testify first. Thank you Council Member
15 Treyger.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: Okay... [speaking
17 Russian]

18 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay we have a
19 tradition at the council that we allow
20 representatives from government agencies to go
21 first as a curtesy so we're going to ask Kenya
22 Handy from New York City Comptroller Scott
23 Stringer's office to go first and then we'll return
24 to the public testimony. Thank you Kenya.

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2 KENYA HANDY: Hello. Thank you. My name
3 is Kenya Handy... [cross-talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: And... and just...

5 KENYA HANDY: Oh.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...if... just to
7 make this clear actually we... we... at the request of
8 Council Member Treyger we're going to allow for
9 three minutes on the clock for public testimony so
10 if the clerk or the Sergeant at Arms wouldn't mind
11 just turn the clock onto three minutes we'd
12 appreciate that. Kenya it's all yours.

13 KENYA HANDY: Thank you. My name is
14 Kenya Handy. I am Brooklyn Borough Director for
15 Community Affairs in the Office of the City
16 Comptroller and I will be testifying on his behalf.
17 Thank you Chairperson Greenfield for holding this
18 hearing today and to Council Members Treyger and
19 Deutsch for introducing and supporting resolution
20 985 calling on the landmark's preservation
21 commission to designate this historic Coney Island
22 Boardwalk as a scenic landmark. Three and a half
23 years ago Coney Island was devastated by Superstorm
24 Sandy. Homes were lost, communities were uprooted
25 and a neighborhood struggled to figure out what

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2 came next. Today, thanks to the leadership of this
3 council, the hard work of neighborhood
4 organizations and the resilience of the people of
5 Coney Island America's playground has been rebuilt
6 and the community is growing stronger every day.
7 Coney Island's economic and cultural heart can be
8 found in its many iconic landmarks. The Coney
9 Island Shore Theatre, the Cyclone, the Wonder
10 Wheel, the Parachute Jump. But when New Yorkers
11 think about Coney Island they probably think about
12 one thing above all else, the historic boardwalk
13 that for generations has been the place where
14 diverse beach goers and residents alike have
15 reveled in the beauty and the possibility of Coney
16 Island. That's why I stand with this council to
17 call upon the LPC to designate the boardwalk as a
18 scenic landmark. Land marking the boardwalk will
19 further the... the best interest of the community and
20 the city by allowing the city to pursue its
21 sustainability goals while granting official
22 recognition to this nearly century old icon.
23 Accordingly, I urge council to pass resolution 985
24 and for the Landmark's Preservation Commission to

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2 add the Coney Island Boardwalk to Brooklyn's list
3 of scenic landmarks. Thank you.

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
5 much. We are now going to turn it over to Bella and
6 David. And we're just going to ask... and Council
7 Member Treyger if you can just clarify this point
8 as well that they speak in 20 second bursts so that
9 the translator can actually have the ability to
10 translate otherwise she won't be able to translate
11 the entire thing. Thank you.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: [speaking
13 Russian] Thank you.

14 DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking
15 Russian]

16 TRANSLATOR: I was at a second world war
17 and Paul sent a delegation that... for me to speak
18 about Broadway... Boardwalk...

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Can we just... I
20 apologize... can we just get him to identify himself
21 first, please.

22 TRANSLATOR: My name is Majan
23 Nerendaques [phonetic] I'm an interpreter for
24 Accurate Communication.

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2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you... and
3 can we... also can we ask you David can you just
4 identify yourself as well, just for the record?
5 Thank you.

6 DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: My name is David
7 Gershwin-Gorlin.

8 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

9 DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking
10 Russian]

11 TRANSLATOR: The question as whether
12 cement or wood is better for that establishment
13 the... the whole problem is that this is a place of
14 recreation and rest and there are children playing
15 around. And everyone likes to walk around barefoot.

16 DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking
17 Russian]

18 TRANSLATOR: In order to construct a
19 cement construction, you need metal and the cement
20 itself is a solid matter that needs to be brought
21 into a liquid form and then back into a solid
22 matter.

23 DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking
24 Russian]

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TRANSLATOR: The structure is metallic.

The ocean is made from salt water. Salt degenerates metal and therefore it degenerates cement.

DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking Russian]

TRANSLATOR: The problem also is that you would need to repair it also and doing the repairs, all of the particles are turning into dust.

DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking Russian]

TRANSLATOR: And that's dust is dangerous for people with breathing disorders.

DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking Russian]

TRANSLATOR: And also in... in order to clean the service you would need to water it with fresh water and that fresh water from... from the cement, it evaporates.

DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking Russian]

TRANSLATOR: And to put a construction that needs continuous rain on is not friendly for breathing.

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2 DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking
3 Russian]

4 TRANSLATOR: And the wooden construction
5 yes you do need to repair, however, in order to
6 save that kind of boardwalk... nature it is
7 healthier.

8 DAVID GERSHWIN-GORLIN: [speaking
9 Russian]

10 TRANSLATOR: Thank you very much for
11 your attention.

12 [applause]

13 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Wave... we can
14 waive. Thank you. Thank you. And Bella can you just
15 state your name for us for the record and then you
16 can begin your testimony.

17 BELLA ACKMEKET: [speaking Russian]

18 TRANSLATOR: I live in Brighton and I
19 take care of the candidates for the area. I know
20 everybody who lives in the area. I'm familiar with
21 all of the buildings and all of the people who... who
22 live and... and enjoy the boardwalk and I know that
23 everyone is for maintaining the wooden surface of
24 the boardwalk.

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2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.
3 Before we continue would you just ask her please to
4 state her name for the record please? Thank you.

5 TRANSLATOR: [speaking Russian]

6 BELLA ACKMEKET: Bella...

7 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
8 much Bella... continue.

9 BELLA ACKMEKET: [speaking Russian]

10 TRANSLATOR: I know many... many names of..
11 of influential people including Mark Treyger if..

12 BELLA ACKMEKET: Deutsch... Chaim Deutsch.

13 TRANSLATOR: And Chaim Deutsch and I
14 hope that's if we will be able to obtain a status
15 of a land.. landmark that would be just about
16 wonderful.

17 BELLA ACKMEKET: [speaking Russian]

18 TRANSLATOR: When they were demolishing
19 parts of the Boardwalk I did make aware.. [speaking
20 Russian]

21 BELLA ACKMEKET: [speaking Russian]

22 TRANSLATOR: I did make Eric Adams aware
23 that underneath whatever they're taking apart is
24 still a very good quality wood which could be used
25 to repair parts of the Boardwalk that need repairs.

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BELLA ACKMEKET: [speaking Russian]

TRANSLATOR: If it would be impossible to obtain status of a historical landmark then at least I would... I would plead for a part from Ocean Parkway to... to Shore Road to be able to fix and maintain the quality of the boardwalk as it is.

BELLA ACKMEKET: [speaking Russian]

TRANSLATOR: Thank you very much for your attention and good luck with your decision and we will do everything to be able to support our point of view and if needed to gain signatures... obtain signatures.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very much. Any questions for this panel? Hearing none this panel is dismissed. We're going to call up our next panel and... [cross-talk]

COUNCIL MEMBER TREYGER: [speaking Russian]

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Simeon Bankoff, Daniel Loannou, Keith Suber, William Zucker, and Ida Sanoff. And while our panel is coming up I'd like to ask Council Member to say some few words on this Resolution.

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER DEUTSCH: Thank you Chair
3 Greenfield. First of all... [speaking Russian]
4 everyone. I just want to start off by saying that
5 when I first ran for office when I began my
6 campaign I started campaigning in no other place
7 than the Boardwalk. It's surrounded by thousands of
8 my constituents as I represent Brighton Beach. So
9 you know I'm sure that in 1921 when the Boardwalk
10 began to be built there were hundreds of... of
11 workers out there and they... they got paid pennies a
12 day. And it wasn't about only... only about putting
13 bread and butter and food on the table and making
14 sure that they could make ends meet, but they put
15 the heart and soul into the boardwalk. It wasn't
16 just a job. It was something that they have done
17 because they knew that the boardwalk will be a
18 haven, thousands, millions of people throughout the
19 years. When the Boardwalk was built it instantly
20 became an icon that drew together the entire South
21 Brooklyn shoreline into what the shore line has
22 become today. In the early 1900s Brooklyn Borough
23 President Edward Riegelmann made this boardwalk his
24 mission. And the substance of what this boardwalk
25 is as it is... as it stands today, it stands for

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2 family, for community, for the cultural melting pot
3 that New York City has always been and continues to
4 be. There are untold numbers of people who have
5 literally grown up on this boardwalk. In the summer
6 you have parents there with their new babies,
7 little children on school trips, teenagers who come
8 to the boardwalk with their friends, young couples
9 just starting out their lives together, parents,
10 grandparents, their pets, their friends, their
11 families, folks from here in Brooklyn, tourists
12 from across the world, immigrants, and so much
13 more. Millions of people over the years have made
14 memories on our boardwalk. And it's time for the
15 boardwalk to be recognized as the landmark that it
16 truly is. And even more than that the boardwalk
17 must be maintained. Looking at the state of
18 disrepair that it is in today... there are nails
19 sticking out, boards that are loose. Whole sections
20 that haven't been touched in far too long. The
21 wooden boardwalk does not just belong to the people
22 of Coney Island or Brighton Beach or South
23 Brooklyn. This is New York City's boardwalk. And
24 New York City needs to maintain it. Parks
25 Department is intending to spend millions of

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2 dollars moving the bathroom on the boardwalk with
3 only a couple of hundred of feet away. There's
4 money for this but not money to preserve our
5 boardwalk. There is a reason that this resolution
6 has such widespread support throughout the city is
7 because this boardwalk means something to each of
8 the thousands who have signed petitions, tweeted
9 their supports, spoken up at rallies, and who have
10 come here today to testify. And I thank you all for
11 that. The Landmark's Commission has an obligation
12 to act on behalf of the people of this city and
13 declare our boardwalk an official landmark today.
14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
16 Council Member Deutsch. We'd also like to invite
17 Jennifer Thorpe-Moscon and I see you've already
18 joined us so why don't you start us off with your
19 testimony. Just a reminder that there's three
20 minutes on the clock. We ask that you please try to
21 adhere to that. And we'll start from you and then
22 we'll move our way down. Thank you very much
23 Jennifer.

24 JENNIFER THORPE-MASCON: Great. Thank
25 you. My name is Jennifer Thorpe-Moscon and I'm here

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2 on behalf of myself and also the organization of
3 which I'm President, Southern Brooklyn Democrats.
4 My organization represents neighborhoods in
5 Brooklyn spanning a large majority of Southern
6 Brooklyn including Coney Island, Graves End,
7 Bensonhurst, Sheepshead Bay, Brighton Beach and a
8 number of other neighborhoods. And we absolutely
9 support the resolution to landmark the boardwalk,
10 the wooden boardwalk. It is a crucial part of our
11 community's culture. It has been a part of my life
12 since I was just a child. Every summer I have so
13 many memories of being there and it was a place
14 where people from all backgrounds could come
15 together and be as one. And that culture and that
16 history must be maintained. It is crucial that we
17 maintain the boardwalk and protect it as it is in
18 its current character for generations to come.
19 Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.
21 Simeon.

22 SIMEON BANKOFF: Good afternoon Council
23 Members. I'm Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director of
24 the Historic District's Council. I'm also one of
25 Council Member Deutsch's people who grew up on the

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2 Boardwalk. I'm actually... was... my family lived in
3 Manhattan Beach for 50 years and I went to Junior
4 High School in Coney Island obviously. And I'm
5 thrilled by the way to be here in front of the
6 Council A, testifying in front of the Land Use
7 Committee, a rare pleasure, and B, that the
8 council's taking such a strong stance on
9 preservation and such proactive one. This is
10 fantastic and I applaud this effort and applaud
11 Council Member Treyger for bringing this forward.
12 Obviously the... the Coney... the Riegelmann Boardwalk
13 is a landmark, it should be a landmark. This is
14 self-evident. However, the point is just making it
15 a... a landmark is not enough. The city must actually
16 maintain it and actually repair it back to its wood
17 surroundings. It should also frankly take out the
18 sand from underneath it because anyone will tell
19 you that that putting sand underneath a boardwalk
20 will wick up moisture into the... into the wood which
21 then causes the... the rotting problems.
22 Unfortunately, the landmarks preservation
23 commission of which I am very fond is not a capital
24 agency. This falls firmly on the shoulders of the
25 parks department who has been negligent for decades

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2 with regards to maintaining it. So I strongly
3 support this resolution and strongly urge the
4 council to tell our agencies to take care of this
5 wonderful landmark for all of us.

6 WILLIAM ZERKER: My name is William
7 Zerker. As a lifelong resident of the Brighton
8 Beach community I have found the iconic Coney
9 Island Boardwalk to be an absolute godsend, a
10 facility upon which I can relax for hours in the
11 open air right by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean.
12 I find the environment absolutely salubrious and
13 healthful and this is the feeling of the many who
14 come here from other communities to enjoy and relax
15 over what the boardwalk uniquely has to offer. I
16 would hope that the Parks Department does not go
17 ahead with its plans to replace the wooden walkway
18 with a concrete one as the charm of the facility
19 that has been enjoyed by many for generations would
20 be totally lost becoming like being on an ordinary
21 paved street. Since the Coney Island Boardwalk is
22 an aesthetic and scenic icon, one that is rich in
23 history and that enjoys both local and worldwide
24 fame it should be landmarked in order that it be
25 protected for us now and for future generations to

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2 enjoy. I strongly urge the landmark's preservation
3 commission to do so. I respectfully suggest that
4 they show fairness to our community and be more
5 receptive to the evidence of its being highly
6 deserving of this designation as well as to the
7 express desires of the many New Yorkers who have
8 made their voices heard for years now urging that
9 the boardwalk be granted its rightful status. Thank
10 you.

11 KEITH SUBER: Good morning Council. My
12 name is Keith Suber. I'm the president of the Suber
13 Project in Coney Island. It's a grassroots
14 organization. I'm also the co-owner of 911 Home
15 Savers which is a construction company. My fondest
16 memories of the Boardwalk is my grandmother. My
17 grandmother was an employee for the Parks
18 Departments in the 70s... early 70s and 80s. I'm not
19 going to tell my age but I was born in 66... that
20 makes me 50 years old. And... Most I remember is you
21 know seeing her grandmother on her hands and knees
22 cleaning up the bathrooms. She used to have to go
23 down the stairs to obtain use of the bathrooms in
24 the Coney Island Boardwalk. And she used to get to
25 the... my favorite part was West 5th street... play

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2 handball because I used to get the... I used to get
3 the chance to sit there and watch the older guys
4 play handball. And we know that Coney Island is
5 famous... that park is famous for... a lot of famous
6 individuals come out of that area for playing
7 handball. And you know just under the boardwalk...
8 itself... it speaks a lot of volume. Coney Island is
9 a great place. We... we have lost a lot of our icons
10 because of Hurricane Sandy but we know that a lot
11 of things still remain. We have... we have the short
12 theatre which would be coming back... should be
13 coming back alive soon. We have the parachute jump.
14 And... and I looked at this hearing as a... a... a DNA
15 test. Like... like I think the Boardwalk is 99.99
16 percent the father and I think that we should... I'm
17 definitely in favor of keeping that boardwalk alive
18 for many years to come. Thank you.

19 DANIEL LOANNOU: Hi, I'm Daniel Loannou,
20 volunteer at the Coney Island History Project and
21 today I'm making a statement for Charles Denson
22 who's the Executive Director of the Coney Island
23 History Project and also wrote Coney Island lost
24 and found. In December 2014 the staff of the
25 Landmarks Preservation Commission sent a letter to

1 Council Member Mark Treyger stating that the Coney
2 Island Boardwalk has no historical or cultural
3 significance. In the opinion of the staff they
4 declared the most important period of significance
5 in the history of Coney Island as a seaside resort
6 predates the construction of the Boardwalk. For
7 some reason the LPC staff has decided to downplay a
8 relevant and significant chapter of Coney Island's
9 history and they are wrong. During the 1920s
10 following the closure of the private race tracks
11 and restrictive hotels Coney Island was resurrected
12 as the People's Playground. The shore foot was
13 expanded and reclaimed by the city and open to the
14 public. The boardwalk became the island's main
15 street celebrated and legend song. All six of Coney
16 Island's official city landmarks date from the era
17 of the boardwalk. Five of them were built after the
18 boardwalk began construction. Three of them can be
19 accessed via the boardwalk. And all can be seen
20 from the boardwalk. The boardwalk attracts the most
21 diverse crowds in the entire city and in... essence
22 has not changed since it opened in 1923. The
23 political battle to construct a public beach and
24 boardwalk began in the 1890s and remains a
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2 momentous achievement in Coney Island's history.
3 Building the boardwalk is an incredibly complicated
4 process that involves a supreme court ruling, the
5 purchase of miles of private beachfront and the
6 invention of new engineering techniques that are
7 still in use today. The structure is constructed on
8 concrete pilings in the ocean surf and the beach
9 was expanded... the first time hydraulic pumping has...
10 had been used to create a broad accessible beach.
11 Before the boardwalk was built visitors had to pay
12 a fee to access the beach. After the boardwalk
13 opened a million poor immigrants and people of
14 small means were able to flee the stifling
15 sentiments of the city and find free access to the
16 healthy environment of the beach and ocean breezes.
17 New theatres and hotels were constructed, public
18 transfer brought millions to the shore and the new
19 boardwalk free to all was the centerpiece. It
20 remains a popular symbol of Coney Island's
21 resurrection. The boardwalk meets the same
22 requirements as Ocean Parkway, a Brooklyn Scenic
23 Landmark since 1976. The landmark commission has
24 stated to become a scenic landmark an outdoor site
25 must be at least 30 years old and have a special

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2 character or special historic or aesthetic interest
3 or value as part of the development, heritage, or
4 culture characteristics of the city, state, or
5 nation. The boardwalk meets every one of these
6 requirements. Its basic structure has not been
7 significantly altered and is certainly one of the
8 most scenic and historic locations in New York
9 City. The city's... the city government's historic
10 battle to reclaim the shorefront of Coney Island,
11 the engineering breakthrough had enabled it to be
12 built and the important role it plays in both the...
13 in both the visitors and residents earn disputable
14 evidence for landmark status. The boardwalk still
15 serves its original intention and mission as a
16 scenic promenade, an open space for the people of
17 New York City, and there is no reason why it should
18 not be designated a scenic landmark. Thank you.

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
20 much. Are there any questions. Hearing none we want
21 to thank the panel for your testimony. We certainly
22 appreciate it. Simeon you mentioned it was rare to
23 come here. We always invite you to come to our... our
24 land use hearings.

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2 SIMEON BANKOFF: Usually the Land Use
3 doesn't have public testimony... subcommittees do.

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Subcommittees
5 do.

6 SIMEON BANKOFF: Right.

7 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Yes, of course.

8 SIMEON BANKOFF: ...me.

9 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Yes, oh there
10 you go. Excellent. Well we're very pleased to have
11 you Simeon so thank you for... thank you for coming.
12 We're going to call our next panel and that's Rob
13 Burstein, Susan Friedman, Michael Schwartz, Arlene
14 Brenner, and Paul King.

15 [background comments]

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Is Michael
17 Quinn here as well? You can join us as well. Thank
18 you.

19 UNKNOWN MALE: He may have stepped out
20 for a moment.

21 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: If you can just
22 identify yourself when you begin. Michael we're
23 going to start with you and then we'll go down the
24 row. Thank you.

1
2 MICHAEL SCHWARTZ: Okay. Good afternoon.

3 My name's Michael Quinn. I'm a New York City
4 licensed tour guide and I'm the founder of Coney
5 Island Tours. I also serve on Community Board 13.
6 I'm the Chairman of the Transportation Committee.
7 I'd like to thank Council Member Treyger for
8 sponsoring this bill with the support of Council
9 Member Deutsch. I'm here today to ask you to please
10 consider land marking the boardwalk at Coney
11 Island, the Riegelmann Boardwalk. Before 1923
12 people had to pay money to use the beach at Coney
13 Island. You had to pay money to use a bath house to
14 have access to a beach. In the 1920s my
15 grandparents who are immigrants were able to use
16 the boardwalk and the beach, could afford to, 10
17 years earlier they came to this country they
18 wouldn't be able to afford to use a bath house and
19 pay for a bath house... amusement park to use the
20 beach. Here in this setting here at City Hall in
21 the chamber here we strive to create a city that is
22 diverse and inclusive. There is no landmark in this
23 city that represents the diversity and
24 inclusiveness like the Coney Island Boardwalk.
25 Thank you.

1
2 ROB BURSTEIN: I'd like to ask the
3 council's indulgence if before we start my time I
4 just wanted to say... My name's Rob Burstein. I'm the
5 president of the Coney Brighton Boardwalk Alliance
6 and the people you've seen waiting for a couple of
7 hours here today, our community members, are only a
8 small fraction of the numbers of people that
9 support this resolution. I think that's apparent to
10 you but I did want to state that for the record.
11 Many of them are Russian speaking as you know and
12 felt inhibited to come here and also our community
13 has a tremendously large population of seniors and
14 similarly they couldn't be here. Having said that
15 I'll ask also at the end if I can have another 15
16 or 20 seconds, I think I go over by that much. For
17 far too long both the people and the treasures of
18 the Southern Brooklyn Communities of Brighton Beach
19 and Coney Island have been undervalued and
20 unprotected. One casualty of this dismissive
21 treatment accorded our communities throughout most
22 of our mayoral administrations is the Coney Island
23 Boardwalk. For years it has been left to languish
24 with substantial sections in dangerous disrepair.
25 This not only evidence is a lack of concern for

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2 safety but it is indicative of a severe
3 misunderstanding or underestimation of the
4 boardwalk's vital importance in the lives of both
5 local residents and indeed all New Yorkers. More
6 recently this... this devaluing of a cherished
7 treasure that's an integral part of our communities
8 as well as one of the crown jewels of New York City
9 has been exacerbated as the result of the reflexive
10 dismissal of the application to have the boardwalk
11 be landmarked. The fact that it has been minimally
12 altered since its inception should not bar it from
13 landmark status as it has not bared other far more
14 altered entities from being granted this epilation.
15 Now the New York City Landmark's Preservation
16 Commission defines a landmark as has been said
17 before as a building, property, or object that has
18 a special character or special historic or
19 aesthetic interest or value as part of a
20 development, heritage, or cultural characteristics
21 of the city, state, or nation. By any reasonable
22 measure the Coney Island Boardwalk imminently
23 satisfies each and every aspect of that definition.
24 For example, in contrast with central park which
25 was developed with an elite class in mind that

1 excluded the common man, Coney Island was
2 consciously developed as a place for all classes to
3 come and mingle as they wished. The boardwalk was
4 constructed as an integral aesthetic aspect of this
5 notion of equity through its natural encouragement
6 of the pleasant interactions of all citizens
7 irrespective of social class or economic station.
8 This continues even today where the boardwalk is
9 the spine of our community bringing together and
10 promoting interactions between residents from a
11 wide variety of cultures thus the boardwalk has
12 indeed played an important part in the development
13 as well as in the heritage of our city and it is
14 time to value it as such. There is only one aspect..
15 this is only one aspect of its claim to a special
16 historical interest and I won't mention others in
17 honor of time constraints. Certainly the boardwalk
18 qualifies as an entity having a special character
19 in aesthetic interest. It is a unique aesthetic
20 both visually and kinesthetically as well as in the
21 ambience it projects and promotes. Indeed, it's a
22 living landmark, one that numerous people interact
23 with and enjoy on a daily basis and one that adds
24 immeasurably to the life and vitality of our city.
25

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2 Architects have commented on the graceful
3 simplicity and beauty of its lines and how they
4 engage both ones eye and spirit to move forward and
5 interact with it. That, it is de facto of scenic
6 landmark is evidenced by the fact that it is known
7 worldwide. Indeed, it is iconic in visitors from
8 all countries that come to visit New York City,
9 seek it out for the special enjoyment it provides.
10 As a 21-year-old youngster from France testified at
11 a design commission hearing quote I've been coming
12 here with my father since I was 16 and the first
13 thing we like to visit is the Coney Island
14 Boardwalk. It is beautiful and gives you a special
15 feeling when you are on it. It is so special and I
16 hope you protect it. The Landmarks Preservation
17 Commission ought to grant the boardwalk the scenic
18 landmark status that others inherently understand
19 it to have. I respectfully implore the LPC to grant
20 the Coney Island Boardwalk its rightful place in
21 the history and life of our city by declaring it
22 the New York City Landmark. Thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Rob.

24 MICHAEL SCHWARTZ: Hello, I'm Michael
25 Schwartz, Artistic Director of Coney Art Land

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2 Productions, an arts and education organization.
3 What will happen to us now that they took away
4 under the boardwalk. We won't be falling in love
5 under the boardwalk, boardwalk. I heard that
6 pushing the sand right up under the boards like
7 that is what causes them to erode and crack. I wish
8 we can have our down by the sea on a blanket with
9 my baby under the boardwalk back. Did you hear that
10 when they filled it in Homeless John the under-
11 talker was buried alive, under the boardwalk?
12 Yesterday I tripped on a broken board and fell on
13 my ear and I swear while I was there I could still
14 hear him talk, if you listen closely you can still
15 hear him talk. First they came for under the
16 boardwalk, then they came for the boardwalk. It
17 started already. Part of the boardwalk's already
18 been paved over even though that's not what the
19 people wanted. And in the middle of the night
20 before it would have been landlocked they bulldozed
21 our beloved original thunderbolt. And they came
22 under darkness in the middle of the night and
23 destroyed our beloved West 8th Street bridge to the
24 boardwalk that protected us from automobile traffic
25 because we didn't have the power to protect it. If

1 we don't have the power to protect our world famous
2 beloved boardwalk that connects neighborhoods,
3 businesses, and people one day we will wake up and
4 it won't be there. At least not as we know it.
5 Where's the boardwalk? Oh my god, it's a sidewalk.
6 Don't we have enough sidewalks. The historic
7 beloved boardwalk is one of the last walkways in
8 our world that's an oasis from the concrete that
9 hardens our souls and hammers our joints. Also
10 concrete will not absorb water or heat the way wood
11 does and in this apocalyptic time of hurricanes and
12 floods the walkway by the water is wood for
13 practical as well as aesthetic reasons. Coney
14 Island is called the people's park because it's
15 different than those other sanitized corporatized
16 parks. When Coney becomes corporatized such as when
17 the republican nominee's father Fred destroyed
18 Steeplechase they demolished more than just the
19 peoples' parks, they break the peoples' hearts.
20 We've seen too many New York treasures wiped out by
21 corporate greed little by little turning the
22 greatest city in the world into just another
23 impersonal unaffordable clone of any mall USA. We
24 lost the original Penn Station, the 8th wonder of
25

1
2 the world because it wasn't landmarked. We saved
3 Grand Central Station because it was landmarked. If
4 we don't landmark the boardwalk we'll lose it,
5 we'll lose ourselves. Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Beautiful
7 rendition Michael.

8 ARLENE BRENNER: Can I ask where is the
9 Landmark Commission? Here? Are they here? I don't...
10 oh they're not in the room?

11 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: There was a
12 representative of the Landmarks Preservation
13 Commission here earlier but... and I see her, she's
14 still in the back.

15 ARLENE BRENNER: I just wanted to know
16 who I was talking to. My name is Arlene Brenner.
17 And I'm 70 years old and I've been on this
18 boardwalk for 70 years.

19 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: You look great,
20 Arlene just for the record.

21 ARLENE BRENNER: Oh thank you. You know
22 people come here for the water and the beach but
23 the... that's just during the day. The boardwalk is
24 all the time. The boardwalk I've been on... I'm... I'm
25 on there maybe 320 days out of the year, days and

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2 nights. It's... it's like my history is attached to
3 the boardwalk, not concrete. Concrete is ugly. It's
4 hot. The... this person said about the dust... it's
5 unaesthetic and it doesn't hold my heart like wood
6 does. You know when you walk on the boardwalk and
7 your foot touches down on it the boardwalk comes
8 and meets you. It's not like concrete. It's a
9 living thing. It meets your touch. And for those of
10 you who aren't aware there's a sound... when you walk
11 on the boardwalk there's a sound of the wood as you
12 touch it, a sound and a smell. That's wood. When
13 you leave the street and you come onto the
14 boardwalk you've left the city and you come home to
15 yourself to relaxation, the sound of the wood, not
16 the concrete. How dare they put concrete on our
17 boardwalk. It's foul. And council members, all 50
18 of you, thank you so much for getting it and Mark
19 Treyger for advocating for us and Chaim Deutsch...
20 constantly advocating for us.

21 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Alene I just
22 want to note that I'm already more relaxed just in
23 hearing your description...

24 ARLENE BRENNER: Whoah... whoah... [cross-
25 talk]

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2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I was walking
3 on the boardwalk... I... I already feel more relaxed
4 just from hearing your description of the boardwalk
5 so thank you for that. But please continue.

6 ARLENE BRENNER: And I feel younger
7 hearing what you said about me. So where's Sara?
8 Listen...

9 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: I don't believe
10 you're 70 for the record. I... I would like to see
11 some ID at the end of this hearing.

12 ARLENE BRENNER: Thank you. There is 100
13 percent no need for vehicles on the boardwalk
14 except police cars. Sanitation can be on the beach...
15 [beeping] Please give me a moment.

16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: You have a
17 moment. It's okay.

18 ARLENE BRENNER: They can be on the
19 beach where the boardwalk will not be deteriorated
20 and then not funded. The Parks Department does not
21 fund... name... please fund the boardwalk so we can
22 repair it. No trucks belong on the boardwalk. Oh
23 please... I better stop because other people need to
24 talk.

1
2 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
3 much. You must be Paul.

4 PAUL KING: Yeah, that's hard to follow.
5 So... I hope I will also be impassioned. So good
6 morning. My name is Paul King. And this morning I'd
7 like to speak to you both as someone who's family
8 moved to Coney Island in 1955, I grew up two floors
9 from Charlie Denson, and whose mother still lives
10 one block from the boardwalk as well as a college
11 professor from New York City College of technology
12 who teaches architecture and urban planning. To
13 state my position clearly from the start the
14 boardwalk in Coney Island must be landmarked.
15 Growing up in Coney Island in the 60s and 70s time
16 when the neighborhood transitioned from a place
17 where doors were left unlocked to a place where as
18 a teenager it made my parents nervous that I was
19 out after dark I have always been and continue to
20 be connected to the boardwalk. It has always served
21 as a lifeline of the community, a communal space
22 shared equally by everyone who lived there, a link
23 between communities of Brighton Beach, Coney Island
24 and Seagate whose residents went out after... went
25 out for walks from one end to the other. Perhaps my

1
2 strongest memory as a child is the weekly summer
3 stroll along the boardwalk with my family on
4 fireworks night, the night that the entire
5 community came out to share in the experience. In
6 the 70s when the crime rate rose the community
7 activity on the boardwalk made it a safe haven for
8 children to walk with their families, for runners
9 to enjoy, and for families to ride their bikes. As
10 an urban planner I can tell you that such spaces
11 are rare not only here in New York but anywhere in
12 the world and they are to be treasured and
13 protected. It is also critical that the boardwalk,
14 the operative word being 'board' remain made of
15 wood. From an experiential perspective it is the
16 soft give of the wood that gives you the feel as
17 you walk that promotes strolling slowly, that makes
18 one take the time to look around and live in the
19 moment. From an urban design perspective cities
20 suffer from urban heat island effect. The increased
21 use of materials such as stone and concrete with
22 high specific heat and the continued loss of open
23 unbuilt and unpaved areas collects and holds the
24 heat of the sun raising the urban temperatures by
25 several degrees. Along the boardwalk as sections of

1 wood have been replaced by concrete the local
2 temperatures in those areas are now higher than the
3 adjacent areas of wood. Additionally, the brighter
4 surface of the concrete as compared to the darker
5 wood has increased the glare one experiences while
6 walking. To counter this the city recognized the
7 issue and has initiated green street's program
8 funded by the DEP that converts paved areas of the
9 city, fills them with trees and shrubs reducing
10 local temperatures and creating areas capable of
11 collecting storm water and reducing flooding. It
12 seems counterintuitive that at the same time the
13 boardwalk continues to be converted to concrete.
14 Coney Island is a micro climate that is the local
15 temperature along the shore, the summer is cooler
16 than the rest of the city. This is why for the last
17 two centuries people have flocked to Coney Island
18 on hot summer days to enjoy cool breezes, to walk
19 along the boards. If the boardwalk continues to be
20 replaced this rare asset will be lost not just to
21 local residents but to our children and the
22 generations that follow and to all of New York and
23 to all those who've traveled here on vacation and
24 always make a trip out to the boardwalk. With my
25

1
2 mother still living in Coney Island.. excuse me, I
3 still view myself as a lifelong resident.
4 Additionally, I now return home several times a
5 week as member of the Coney Island YMCA on 29th
6 Street on Surf Avenue across from the street where
7 Coney Island Houses where I grew up and I still
8 venture on the boardwalk to run. As a runner you
9 experience the boardwalk in a different way over...
10 as over a short period of time you see the entire
11 length and you have the chance to observe the
12 people walking and talking. Since the section of
13 the Boardwalk to the east... to the end where Seagate
14 has been replaced with concrete I have noticed a
15 marked change in both my own behavior as well as
16 those walking along the boards, that people turn
17 around when they reach the concrete and head back
18 the other way. While the damage has already been
19 done it is not too late to reverse the tide and
20 return the boardwalk to its former glory. As an
21 urban planner I look at New York and I have seen in
22 recent years the development... [cross-talk]

23 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Paul I'm going
24 to ask you to wrap up please.

25 PAUL KING: Okay.

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CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

PAUL KING: Of two linier public laments which serve similar purposes as the boardwalk in Coney Island Brooklyn Bridge Park and the Highline in Manhattan. I just want to point out that they have become vital parts of a community and have spurred on development. So... finish... In addition, the wood being used for this is not from the rainforest but is Black Locust, a species native to North America, which a native fast growing..

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Paul..

PAUL KING: ...environmentally friendly choice.

CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very much for your testimony. We appreciate it. Not quite... not... not quite Arlene's but I did like the board in the boardwalk. I think we should have pins made up Council Member Treyger, keep the board in boardwalk, what do you think. I like those. We're going to work on those pins. Any... any questions for this panel. Seeing none I want to thank you all for your testimony. I'm going to call the next panel. Incidentally is Susan Friedman here? She is not, okay. Ralph Perfedo, Michael Gunderson, Christiana

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2 Nelson, Judith Kanapa, and Ida Sanoff, our next
3 panel please. Just slide on over the microphone. We
4 can start with Ralph please. Thank you.

5 RALPH PERFETTO: Thank you. My name is
6 Ralph Perfetto. In 1964 I was the founder of the
7 Coney Island Neighborhood Improvement Organization
8 and in 1975 I founded the Astola [sp?] Development
9 Corporation that did a lot of housing and new
10 building at Coney Island. In 1906 my maternal
11 grandparents settled in Coney Island and my
12 grandfather was a mechanic for the Lunar Park
13 Amusement Company. In 1912 my mother was born in
14 Coney Island and in 1933 she married my father who
15 was a painter for the Tiguel [sp?] Family in
16 Steeplechase Park including the Parachute Jump. I
17 was born in 1934 in Coney Island. All of my summer
18 jobs were right there in Coney Island including on
19 the Parachute Jump, Wonder Wheel, etcetera. My five
20 children were born in Coney Island and they too...
21 their summer jobs were in the amusement areas. Very
22 familiar with Coney Island, very active in Coney
23 Island. I've seen Coney Island in its heyday.
24 Unfortunately, I lived through the Coney Island
25 Blight days. I thank god that I'm alive today to

1
2 see the rebirth of Coney Island thanks to people
3 like Councilman Mark Treyger and other people who
4 care about Coney Island. I tell you without fear of
5 contradiction that the Coney Island boardwalk was...
6 is... and will continue to be the landmark of that
7 historic island. I thank you.

8 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

9 MIKE GUNDERSON: Hello. My name is Mike
10 Gunderson. I want to thank you all for this
11 hearing. And I... I've been living in Brighton Beach
12 you know Coney Island area for I'd say about 32
13 years and I have an apartment that's 10 feet from
14 the boardwalk. I have a terrace that's 10 feet from
15 the boardwalk and about 10 feet higher above the
16 boardwalk. Every single day...

17 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Pretty sweet.

18 MIKE GUNDERSON: I... I'm blessed, I am
19 blessed, truly blessed.

20 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Do you have any
21 parties... [cross-talk]

22 MIKE GUNDERSON: I'm a retired transit
23 worker.

24 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: ...perhaps? Do
25 you have any parties maybe? [cross-talk]

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2 MIKE GUNDERSON: ...many, many... [cross-
3 talk]

4 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Councilman
5 Treyger why you holding out on us on Mike's parties
6 on the Boardwalk.

7 MIKE GUNDERSON: I'm telling you
8 everybody does know...

9 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: We expect some
10 invitations, just FYI.

11 MIKE GUNDERSON: It's wonderful.

12 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay.

13 MIKE GUNDERSON: ...to be able to look out
14 my terrace and look at the boardwalk and look at
15 the people walk by. And the wood you know... I... I've
16 actually seen it go down into disrepair and I have
17 no clue why it's been like that. But the thing is
18 you know my... my son has lived there for years, you
19 know coming to visit me and everything and I'm
20 divorced but what I could say is you know it's just
21 a pleasure to see the wood you know, see the people
22 stroll by on the boardwalk and enjoy it. You know
23 every day that I go out there... you know I'm out
24 there 'till 11:00 at night in the warm weather and
25 I would hate to see it turn into concrete, which

1
2 certain sections have turned into concrete and
3 it's... it's so you know cold and... and... but the heat
4 also... the heat just emits from the concrete. And
5 what I could say is the trucks that go by... I see
6 heavy heavy trucks go by on that boardwalk to
7 really ruin it you know. So all I could say is I'm
8 very grateful for being here and for having a place
9 to live that's so beautiful. Thank you.

10 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you Mike.

11 CHRISTIANNA NELSON: Hi, my name is
12 Christianna Nelson and I work with the Boardwalk
13 Alliance and I love the Coney Island Boardwalk. I
14 think it's the most beautiful, dynamic, romantic
15 place in the world and so much so that my husband
16 when he was trying to figure out where to propose
17 he picked Coney Island. And after I said yes we
18 walked on the boardwalk we took a romantic stroll,
19 we admired the view, and we called our friends and
20 family and... and told them the news.

21 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Do you have any
22 pictures.

23 CHRISTIANNA NELSON: Oh yeah, a lot of
24 pictures...

25 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Okay good.

CHRISTIANNA NELSON: ...lots and lots.

And... and then years later when my daughter was born the Coney Island Boardwalk was the place I was most excited to see her walk. And yes she has walked on the boardwalk and I have pictures of that too.

Clearly I have a very personal connection to the Coney Island Boardwalk. But I'm not alone. What

I've learned through my work with... with the

Boardwalk Alliance is that there are many... many...

many people out there that have very personal

connections to this place and who admire its beauty

and its... its scenic views and its unique character.

We set up a petition to preserve the Coney Island

Boardwalk and we got thousands of signatures just

by word of mouth and sort of hitting the boards as

they say. And I personally spoke with many people

on the boardwalk, locals who were... you know walk

there every day, some of them pushing baby

carriages or... or wheelchairs. And then tourists who

came from as far away as London and... and Germany.

There's a woman who said in the comments that she

makes a special trip to Coney Island every year

from Montreal and always visits the boardwalk, that

the boardwalk is a vital part of that. Many of the

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2 people who I spoke to thought that the boardwalk
3 already was landmarked and were shocked to hear
4 that it wasn't. And when I told them what the plans
5 were for... thought it was insane, why would you do
6 that to the beautiful sort of tourist destination,
7 iconic, historical beautiful landmark. All of them
8 thought that it should be landmarked, everyone who
9 I spoke to. I think because it's... it's... it's a New
10 York City icon that's successful to everyone that's
11 been talked about a lot, and that people can
12 interact within a very physical way with their
13 family and friends, makes it even more special.
14 It's really unique and special among... among New
15 York City destinations. I just want to read from
16 some of the comments... some of these sort of
17 personal connections. So a woman, Isabel Raize
18 [sp?] from the Bronx, said at this boardwalk my
19 father brought me over when I was a little girl. He
20 passed away six years ago. It brings me closer to
21 him. I walked on this boardwalk after having dates
22 at Coney Island. It is very romantic. And to walk
23 this long boardwalk to get to know someone and just
24 look up to the moon and the stars the effects is
25 priceless. The feeling is incredible to be out into

1 the ocean without a boat on a warm night at sunset.
2 The breeze, the scent is amazing. There is no other
3 boardwalk like it. Changes everywhere so strong one
4 cannot even explain to the next generation the
5 magic, the beauty without a visual aid. Please
6 don't take it away. Keep the Coney Island in its
7 full beauty please. I agree. I would ask that you
8 please... please vote to preserve the peoples'
9 landmark... Landmark Commission, keep it from being
10 destroyed. Please, the most... a place of great
11 beauty and the most scenic place in the world to me
12 and so many people, the Coney Island Boardwalk. And
13 thank you for introducing this resolution and thank
14 you for voting for it.

15
16 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.
17 Judith.

18 JUDITH: Hi, I'm J.K... I'm Judith Kenapa...
19 JK Kenapa. And I'm with Friends of Coney Island
20 Brighton Beach Boardwalk. I'm also with the New
21 York Climate Action Group, Co-founder... co-found a
22 lot of things. As a child in small town
23 Pennsylvania I would spread out the Sunday Times
24 and we'd eat bagels and lox just once a week,
25 that's all we could get it. I grew up, I knew I was

1
2 a New Yorker. My father would bring us to the city
3 and he'd show us his New York. And we... we climbed
4 the statue of liberty and empire state building but
5 he took us to the fights at Madison Square Garden
6 and he took us to Shacks [sp?] and Ratner's and
7 Grand Concourse, his New York. But most of all
8 Coney Island. Those scary rides, the hotdogs at
9 Nathan's, that ocean that stretched all the way
10 across the world. These were the biggest... the sky
11 and the ocean the biggest things in my young life.
12 And the boardwalk, the eternal boardwalk.
13 Intellectually I know it's changed over the... over
14 the decades. I'm a member of the board of
15 Rainforest Relief. We fought that change. The wood
16 started out as Georgia Yellow Pine... long, long
17 pine, and then Douglas Fir and then very tragically
18 Ipe Cumaroo from the pristine Amazon Rainforest but
19 it was always the boardwalk and it... so it remains
20 mostly except for those parts with the concrete
21 stripe or even worse the wide spread of concrete
22 that hurt my feet. Such an eyesore. My son had an
23 internship with Sideshow by the Seashore. My
24 grandchildren, they come and visit me from Philly,
25 don't ask me why Philly but Philly, and they create

1
2 their own Coney Island memories. My high school
3 classmates at Pennsylvania Dutch people, they come
4 and they walk the boardwalk. This is our treasure
5 New York and deserves to be landmarked.

6 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Ida.

7 IDA SANOFF: Ida Sanoff. Thank you for
8 acknowledging the significance of the historic,
9 iconic, wooden Coney Island Boardwalk. It's an
10 international tourist destination. And for those of
11 us who live there it's our backyard. It's our
12 living room. We detour up there as we run our
13 errands around the neighborhood. It... it's part of
14 us. JK brought up... I wasn't going to talk about
15 this but since JK brought it up... she brought up
16 wood. Now interestingly no one would even think of
17 replacing the wooden walkways of the historic
18 iconic Brooklyn Bridge with concrete, heavens to
19 Betsy, no. And it just so turns out that the
20 Wildlife Conservation Society which runs the New
21 York Aquarium has its very own special carefully
22 managed rainforest somewhere in South America for
23 the specific purpose of growing wood just for the
24 Brooklyn Bridge. So isn't Coney Island Boardwalk
25 also in Brooklyn. And if the Brooklyn bridge is so

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2 special that it requires wood and the Wildlife
3 Conservation Society is involved well certainly our
4 boardwalk deserves no less. These concrete sections
5 are abysmal, they crack, they are discolored, they
6 chip. And not only that we have evidence that they
7 exacerbated storm surge impacts during Hurricane
8 Sandy. Arlene Brenner spoke before. Our buildings
9 are back to back. Her building is adjacent to the
10 concrete section, had 15 feet of flood water. My
11 building was adjacent to the wooden section, we had
12 three feet of flood water. In the sections adjacent
13 there was 10 to 15... 10 to 15 feet of sand pushed
14 onto the streets. In sections adjacent to the wood
15 there were perhaps inches of sand. So this is
16 something that nobody wants to talk about, nobody
17 wants to acknowledge even though we have pictures.
18 But somebody better take a look at it because
19 you're talking of millions of dollars in future
20 damage. Last but not least if you want to talk
21 about aesthetics, you want to go up there, you want
22 to talk about history you see the vertical sections
23 and that reminds you of the old wooden whicker
24 rolling chairs. You look at the historical pictures
25 of Coney Island. You see these grand ladies and

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2 gentlemen going down there. The diagonal sections,
3 they draw your eye off into the vista. The vistas
4 are spectacular. Last but not least I'm going to
5 get my Brooklyn going here. If this boardwalk was
6 in Manhattan it would have been landmarked a long
7 long time ago. Surely the people of Brooklyn
8 deserve the same. Thank you and please.. please vote
9 for this. And thank you so much for your support.

10 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: We appreciate
11 your testimony. And thank you all. And I will point
12 out in fact that the overwhelming majority of
13 landmarks in New York City are in Manhattan
14 incidentally. And so certainly would behoove the
15 landmarks preservation commission to pay some more
16 attention to those of us in the far reaches of
17 Brooklyn. Any questions. Hearing none I thank this
18 panel. We'll call our final panel Tricia Vita,
19 Queenie.. And is there anybody else who wanted to
20 testify who has not had the chance to testify. This
21 is your final opportunity to do so. If you fill out
22 a slip you can come up and testify sir. Last call
23 for testimony on the historic designation of the
24 Coney Island Boardwalk.

1
2 TRICIA VITA: My name is Tricia Vita. I
3 write the blog Amusing the Zillion which I've
4 written, it's about Coney Island since 2009. One of
5 the things... first of all I'd like to thank
6 Councilman Treyger for his tireless efforts on
7 behalf of the Boardwalk and for the city council
8 for voting for this resolution. The plight of the
9 boardwalk calls to mind the sad saga of the
10 parachute jump for many decades after Steeplechase
11 Park closed. The city tried to demolish it, to sell
12 it, nobody wanted to buy it. Finally, it was
13 landmarked in 1977. But the city's Board of
14 Estimate rejected that. They said we can't afford
15 to keep it up so it was denied. At that time the
16 LPC chair Beverly Moss Spatt, that was the time
17 that she first called it the Eifel Tower of
18 Brooklyn. What foresight that she said that and
19 then finally in 1989 the Parachute Jump was
20 landmarked and now it's lit up... it's an... considered
21 an icon of Coney Island. Imagine if the city had
22 been successful at demolishing it or selling it.
23 And so I think that we should think about that now
24 where the Boardwalk is so neglected it... it really
25 needs to be made a landmark. For my blog one of

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2 the... one of the blog posts that I did last year was
3 called boardwalk bump Co. It was about the Milan
4 Expo at which the US pavilion had wood from the
5 Coney Island Boardwalk. It was wood that had been
6 discarded by the city Parks Department and it was
7 bought by... by those people who recycle wood. And
8 this brings up the specter of the boards of the
9 boardwalk in the future existing only as like
10 flooring for museums, bars, peoples' homes, and of
11 course these are very elite projects. It's
12 completely antithetical to what the boardwalk
13 really means. Every time I see an... like a blog post
14 or an ad for artisanal coasters made out of
15 boardwalk wood or knives with handles made out of
16 boardwalk wood. It's just crazy prices. It... it just
17 makes me very angry. It shouldn't... it shouldn't be
18 like that. The other thing is whenever it snows
19 when there's the first snow my friend Bruce Handy
20 who lives in Coney Island and is a photographer he
21 always goes out and takes pictures. And he has
22 these incredible, these exquisite photos of the...
23 the first snow on the slats of the boardwalk. And
24 these photos will exist only... this kind of scene
25 will only exist in archival photos if... if the

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2 boardwalk is made concrete as the... as the Parks
3 Department wishes to do. So thank you and I hope
4 that you landmark the boardwalk.

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
6 much.

7 QUEENIE HUBLEY: Thanks to the City
8 Council Land and Use Committee for letting me
9 testify today. My name is Queenie Hubley and I've
10 lived in Coney Island for more than 30 years. I am...
11 I am here today in support of the land marking of
12 Coney Island Boardwalk. In so doing I am calling
13 upon the city administration and the landmark
14 preservation commission to do the right thing and
15 making the process equitable. Coney Island has lost
16 too much already. I can recall the days when my
17 family could not afford a vacation. However, we
18 were able to take a stroll down the boardwalk and
19 feel the fresh breeze from the ocean. There are
20 numerous family in Coney Island that's keeping up
21 the same ritual. Councilman Treyger we are
22 depending upon you to make sure this resolution is
23 designated an official landmark. Thank you for the
24 opportunity to speak to you.

25 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you.

1
2 JEFFREY: Good afternoon. My name is
3 Jeffrey Croft. I'm President of New York City Park
4 Advocates. I will be brief. The land marking of
5 this internationally historic icon is a long time
6 coming. I would like to thank all of the people who
7 have come out to support this important
8 legislation. And frankly it's embarrassing that
9 this has not been done earlier as you've heard from
10 many people who have testified this is an important
11 issue, not just for the land marking perspective
12 but in everyday life. And it's been such an iconic
13 part of New York City it's... as you mentioned it's
14 not just a... Brooklyn landmark it's an
15 internationally recognized and known land..
16 landmark. And it's important that this city
17 designated this. And it's important that this city
18 take this issue very seriously because we have lost
19 so many things in our city's history that have..
20 that have been demolished. And you know what's been
21 happening recently with the concreting of the... of
22 the boardwalk is... is outrageous. The Parks
23 Department in its infinite wisdom has insisted that
24 the boardwalk slowly be turned into a... a sidewalk
25 basically. And before this... I mean that concrete

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2 needs to be removed but before this goes even
3 further we have to landmark this and this is an
4 important piece of legislation. And again I'd like
5 to support not only the elected officials who have...
6 tirelessly to enact this but all the advocates.
7 This is not easy work. And it's thankless work. And
8 the people of Brooklyn have risen up and spoken
9 very passionately about it. So thank you very much.

10 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you
11 Jeffrey. And thank you all for coming out and
12 testifying today. And I think the message has been
13 heard loud and clear by the Landmarks Preservation
14 Commission, I am sure. And we really appreciate it.
15 And we will keep working on this. And I assure you
16 that you cannot ask for a better advocate on your
17 behalf than Council Member Mark Treyger. Earlier
18 today we had a vote on one item of the Land Use
19 Committee. I'm going to ask the council to allow
20 for Council Member Gentile to vote on that item.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Continued Roll Call on
22 Land Use item 358. Council Member Gentile.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER GENTILE: I vote aye.

24 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Final vote.
25

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK: Council... is 19 in the
3 affirmative, zero in the negative, and zero
4 abstentions.

5 CHAIRPERSON GREENFIELD: Thank you very
6 much. This concludes the Land Use Committee for the
7 meeting of May 4, 2016. I want to thank all of you
8 for coming out here today. I want to thank you for
9 testifying, want to thank you for participating. I
10 want to thank Council Member Treyger for his very
11 important piece of legislation. And we look forward
12 to continuing to have this conversation in the
13 future. This meeting is hereby adjourned.

14 [gavel]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date May 26, 2016