

1. Are you aware that the City is allowing the American Museum of Natural History to expand into a public park (Theodore Roosevelt Park) without going through ULURP? How do you feel about this?

Yes I am aware. NYC has to be more than just a concrete jungle. We should be protecting existing park space from development. It's not ok to pit green spaces against important public institutions like museums. We need to find ways to have both.

2. What is your position on the many alternatives that do not take ANY precious public parkland like moving back-office functions offsite or reconfiguring the existing footprint?

I strongly support the alternatives that leave the parkland untouched.

3. Given the immediate threat, how as Public Advocate would you work with our community to protect Theodore Roosevelt Park and get the American Museum of Natural History to adopt one of the many viable alternatives rather than taking precious and finite public parkland?

This is a difficult situation because of the recent court decision. However, as Public Advocate I would seek an immediate meeting with the Museum to persuade them to reconsider other options.

4. What is your position on how the City prioritizes public open green space and how public parks and gardens are being pitted against culture (The Gilder Center,) affordable housing (Elizabeth Street Garden) and many other similar city governments sanctioned actions? (Marx Brothers' playground, Mandela Community Garden, etc.)

I have been proud to stand with community groups across NYC to protect green spaces including, most recently, Nelson Mandela Community Garden. The "divide and conquer" strategy of pitting green spaces against housing and culture is terrible. We can have both and we must have both if we are to make NYC a more livable city.