



Community United To Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park calling script for government & elected officials

TOPIC 4: Traffic

CALLER:

Hello, my name is Caller Name, I live on Caller's Street, and I am a constituent of Mayor DiBlasio/ Borough President Gale Brewer/ Council Member X.

I'm calling with a comment about the American Museum of Natural History's proposed Gilder Center expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park.

GOVERNMENT STAFFER:

Yes, what is your comment?

CALLER:

I'm concerned because the Upper West Side is a super-high density residential area, divided by two major Avenues, **truck-routes really**, which serve downtown. Columbus Avenue has been reduced to mostly a two-lane street because of bike lanes, existing parking spots, and double-parked trucks unloading. The traffic problem can only get worse, and the MTA is unable to properly handle this.

A large new entrance at W 79th Street and Columbus will bring even more congestion to this avenue and neighboring streets. Often over 50 school buses line the streets of this neighborhood, some double-parked, many of them with idling engines keeping waiting drivers warm or cool, depending on the season.

Currently, it is often so badly clogged that even emergency vehicles cannot get through. I regularly observe fire engines and ambulances stuck in traffic, blaring away for several minutes, unable to move.

Does Mayor DiBlasio/ Borough President Gale Brewer/ Council Member X have a position on this project?

GOVERNMENT STAFFER:

The Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member is still developing his/her thoughts.

OR

The Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member has come out against the project. HE/SHE thinks the negative effects on the neighborhood are too high.

OR



Community United To Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park calling script for government & elected officials

TOPIC 4: Traffic

The Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member is in favor of the project. HE/SHE thinks the congestion issue has been adequately addressed by the museum's traffic plan.

CALLER:

OPTION 1:

I strongly urge Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member to vocally oppose this project. This is a very serious issue. We cannot accept life-threatening delays as a normal part of life. I cannot imagine a worse location for a new, high volume entrance especially when a large, but barely used entry already, already exists on W 77th Street.

I'd also like to add: the Sunday Greenmarket issue has been very cavalierly addressed in the Museum's DEIS. The farmers will have no place to park and unload. A greenmarket may seem a minor concern, but it is of great importance, a great public good, to the residents.

OR

OPTION 2:

I urge the Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member to take another look at this issue and reconsider HIS/HER position. In no way has this been adequately addressed. The Museum would like us to believe that the problem can be easily mitigated with simple, inexpensive and expedient signal changes and a widened crosswalk.

If this were true, why hasn't the MTA done these things already? Wider crosswalks and re-timed signals can't deal with the traffic we already have, let alone with congestion problems during the years of construction and afterward. This is a very serious issue. We cannot accept life-threatening delays as a normal part of life.

GOVERNMENT STAFFER:

I will relay your comment to the Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member. Thank you for your call.

CALLER:

Thank you for your time.