

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park  
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## **Demonstration this Saturday November 4 by New Yorkers Opposed to Museum Expansion**

New York, NY –New Yorkers opposed to the American Museum of Natural History's (AMNH) proposed Richard Gilder Center expansion will be demonstrating their opposition on Saturday, November 4, at 1 PM, in front of the AMNH Main Entrance on Central Park West.

Sponsored by Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park, the demonstration will focus on many neighborhood concerns regarding the Museum's proposal.

These concerns include:

- The fact that more than 150 days have passed with still no Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), raising suspicions that it is being held off until after the elections.
- The fact that the AMNH has failed to provide Remediation Action Plans, particularly in light of the discovery by AKRF, the firm hired by the AMNH to do their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), of the probable emission during construction of toxic substances (among these asbestos, benzene, lead, beryllium, chromium, mercury, PAHs, industrial solvents and arsenic) found in both soil and ground water samples.
- The fact that the creation of a major museum entrance on a residential street will result in a critical increase of pedestrian and vehicular traffic in the area.
- The fact that the presence of toxic materials and the increased infrastructure burdens were particularly singled out by globally-respected environmental firm GHD, hired by Community United to analyze the DEIS. GHD emphasized that the AMNH Remediation Action Plans must be *comprehensive and released to the public* in advance of the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

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- The fact that AMNH, a private institution, may be twisting legal statutes in order to annex public property from Theodore Roosevelt Park without complying with the legally required public review processes.
- The fact that, without taxpayer consent, more than \$135 million in tax dollars has already been allocated to fund construction for this private institution. And this does not include future tax costs to cover maintenance of the planned facility once it is in operation.
- The fact that a tranquil, community-centered park will be destroyed for private vanity purposes.

Community United is calling on all New York City citizens concerned about these issues to join us and demonstrate on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Community United is an organization of Upper West Side residents devoted to saving Theodore Roosevelt Park in its entirety, preventing potential environmental disaster, and standing up to the greed of private development on public land.

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Editor's Note: For further information about Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park, contact Co-President Laura Messersmith, Telephone: (617) 335-5210, Email: [LJQMessersmith@gmail.com](mailto:LJQMessersmith@gmail.com), website: [www.saveourpark.nyc](http://www.saveourpark.nyc)

The Community United executive board welcomes one-on-one press availabilities with interested members of the media.

*Attachments include:*

- PDF Press Release