



Community United to Protect
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY RELEASES 8,000-PAGE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

New York, NY—A few minutes before midnight, on Wednesday, November 15th, The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) released its long-awaited Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for its proposed Richard Gilder Center. The public is allowed only 10 calendar days (Wednesday the 15th being the first of them, even though the FEIS came out just before midnight that day) for the over 8,000-page “statement” to be read, analyzed and commented on.

The bulk of the ten calendar days fall within Thanksgiving week. The deadline for comments is midnight, Black Friday, November 24th.

The AMNH has disingenuously buried unclear answers to serious concerns over public health and safety under a mountain of paper. The appendix on hazardous materials alone is 2,530 pages long; the entire document, if put into a box, would fill over 16 reams of paper and weigh well over 50 pounds.

The AMNH is playing games with the health and safety of tens of thousands of Upper West Siders. Releasing this much information in order to fast-forward government approval processes clearly shows that the Museum places its own private interests and ambitions over the welfare of the public.

A preliminary examination of the FEIS reveals that:

- The AMNH has set a low bar with a Remediation Action Plan (funded by New York City taxpayers) that does the bare minimum to prevent environmental disaster.
- The projected pedestrian figures are bogus. The AMNH justifies its expected attendance numbers by making a specious comparison of the new building (which will be publicized as a World Tourist Destination) with the renovated Dinosaur Wing more than 20 years ago.

Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park (CU), having had only a day to skim the FEIS, finds this voluminous response by the AMNH to be disingenuous, calculated, and contemptuous of the people who seriously care about their environment.

More ...

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CU is working hard to analyze the massive FEIS and intends to compose a summary of the document, which it will place on its website (www.saveourpark.nyc) as soon as possible.

CU encourages all New Yorkers to study the FEIS and call, fax, email or USPS personal comments and observations no later than midnight Friday, November 24th to:

Owen Wells, Dir. of Environmental Review

owen.wells@parks.nyc.gov

NYC Department of Parks & Recreation

The Arsenal, Central Park

830 Fifth Avenue, Room 401

New York, NY 10065

Tel: (212) 360-3492

Fax: (212) 360-3453

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 interests when it threatens the health, safety and quality of life of our fellow New Yorkers.

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Editor's Note: For further information about Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park, contact Co-President Laura Messersmith, Tel: (617) 335-5210, Email LJQMessersmith@gmail.com, or Vice President William Raudenbush, Tel: (303) 522-5803, Email Williamhraudenbush@gmail.com or go to the Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park website: www.saveourpark.nyc

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

Attached:

- PDF of press release