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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Date: November 15, 2017

## **The Museum of Natural History Violates Public Trust Doctrine with Construction of Proposed Richard Gilder Center**

New York, NY – The Richard Gilder Center, as proposed by the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), is in direct violation of the New York Public Trust Doctrine.

The proposed Gilder Center would usurp 11,600 square feet of public park space in Theodore Roosevelt Park.

The New York Public Trust Doctrine states clearly and unequivocally that a private entity may expand into a public park space ONLY if it shows a clear benefit to the park and park users (see below).\*

Based on its current proposal, the AMNH plan offers no benefit to either Theodore Roosevelt Park or its users.

Community United to Protect Theodore Roosevelt Park (CU) believes it is outrageous and inexcusable that the New York Department of Parks, the lead agency on the Gilder Center proposal, has shown an unwillingness or inability or both to enforce the Public Trust Doctrine as it relates to this public parkland. CU wonders why the Department of Parks is seemingly acting in opposition to its own charter.

CU demands that the city AND the state of New York recognize that the AMNH is in patent violation of the Public Trust. CU insists that the Gilder Center be curtailed as currently proposed.

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 developers.

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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), (replace with a CU Laura Messersmith email address) 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.

Attached:

- PDF of "Beware the Public Trust," E2 LawBlog, June 14, 2017  
(link: <https://www.law360.com/articles/935069>)
- PDF of press release