



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

TOPIC 1: Loss of Park Land

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 Gilder Center proposal, and the museum's expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park.

GOVERNMENT STAFFER:

Yes, what is your comment?

CALLER:

I'm concerned about the plans to take public park land on the Upper West Side and use what is currently a quiet green space for a private institution's major new entrance.

The AMNH's architect, Jeanne Gang, specifically said that the education and visitor flow goals could all be accomplished within the existing footprint. So, the Gilder Center will mainly be an extravagant entry hall and used for purposes unrelated to science, innovation or education.

Does Mayor DiBlasio/ Borough President Gale Brewer/ Council Member X have a position on the 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 trade-offs are out of balance.

OR

The Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member is in favor of the project. HE/SHE thinks it will be a great benefit to the neighborhood and the city as a whole.



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CALLER:

OPTION 1: I urge the Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member to vocally oppose the museum's plan and insist that the AMNH fully explore using existing space in their current footprint or moving some functions to off-site office space.

In a high-density residential neighborhood, like the Upper West Side, Theodore Roosevelt Park is irreplaceable. For old and young people, for mothers, nannies with children in strollers, this is a refuge, easy to get to, under large shade canopy trees. I cannot emphasize enough how important small parks such as this one are for people's wellbeing.

OR

OPTION 2: I urge the Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member to reconsider HIS/HER position and vocally oppose the museum's plan. HE/SHE should insist that the AMNH fully explore using existing space in their current footprint or moving some functions to off-site office space. In a high-density residential neighborhood, like the Upper West Side, Theodore Roosevelt Park is irreplaceable. I cannot emphasize enough how important small parks such as this one are for people's wellbeing.

I'd ask the Mayor/ Borough President/ Council Member to put him/herself into a resident's place: An amenity people now take for granted is going to be irreversibly gone. No remediation possible. The bucolic character of the whole 4-block long museum west front will be irrevocably compromised by a large entrance smack in the middle of it. A loss not just for the Upper West Side, but for the whole city.

GOVERNMENT STAFFER:

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

CALLER:

Thank you for your time.