

1. Are you aware that the City is allowing the American Museum of Natural History to expand into a public park (Theodore Roosevelt Park) without going through ULURP? How do you feel about this?

I oppose the Natural History expansion into Theodore Roosevelt Park and believe that **doing it without going thru ULURP is illegal**. (For years I have been working with the Chinatown Working Group to oppose the megatowers in Two Bridges neighborhood which were approved without ULURP illegally and we are working on a lawsuit against the city and state.) My first act as Public Advocate will be to appoint an anti-rezoning activist to the City Planning Commission and we will work together to bring transparency to the CPC. I will also submit legislation to give communities veto power over ULURP proposals. I am running for Public Advocate to give communities control over their parks and greenspaces because we cannot trust the politicians to be civic guardians.

2. What is your position on the many alternatives that do not take ANY precious public parkland like moving back-office functions offsite or reconfiguring the existing footprint?

I have loved the Museum of Natural History since I was little boy and I know that there is plenty of space for the museum to expand exhibit space into back-office space. There is no reason why back-office functions can't be done in an office site office which will ultimately save both money and green space. We can uphold the mission of the museum and preserve green space. I have repeatedly called out the mayor for his divide and conquer strategy of offering false choices to neighborhoods.

3. Given the immediate threat, how as Public Advocate would you work with our community to protect Theodore Roosevelt Park and get the American Museum of Natural History to adopt one of the many viable alternatives rather than taking precious and finite public parkland?

As Public Advocate I would demand that the city follow the law and initiate the ULURP for any plan involving the TR Park. In the meantime I would join with concerned community groups for a City Hall rally and the press conference to oppose the current expansion plan and advocate for alternatives that don't take away parkland. I would defend opponents of the expansion plan from claims of NIMBYism and other such divisive baloney. And I will actively shame and lobby the mayor, the City Council and the museum to make sure the plan goes thru the legally prescribed process.

4. What is your position on how the City prioritizes public open green space and how public parks and gardens are being pitted against culture (The Gilder Center,) affordable housing (Elizabeth Street Garden) and many other similar

city governments sanctioned actions? (Marx Brothers' playground, Mandela Community Garden, etc.)

I am running to stop the Big Real Estate giveaways of our green spaces. I have been a leading voice in the fight to save Elizabeth Street Garden and during my 2017 race for Public Advocate joined community groups against the de-mapping of parks like Marx Brothers Playground

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECUEUTfykZE>.

I have also worked with Alicia Boyd and MTOPP to oppose a rezoning in Crown Heights to build 22 story and 42 story towers that will cast shadows across the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. See link for NY1 report

<https://www.ny1.com/nyc/brooklyn/news/2018/08/27/community-groups-fighting-big-developments-with-shadow-studies#>

In each of these fights I have seen my neighborhood allies accused of NIMBYism and even being against affordable housing. I have publicly countered those bogus accusations and the false choices that de Blasio and real estate developers have used to divide our communities. As Public Advocate I will continue to call out this 'Divide and Conquer Strategy' that has torn apart communities and I will continue to use the media to educate the public about these false claims.