

CHAIR'S REPORT
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
May 13, 2010

Election of Officers

Elections to be held at June General Board

- April General Board - Elections Committee – Javier Carcamo, Chair
- May 17, 2010 – Intent to Run Statements (Signatures and written statement) due
- May General Board - Elections Committee announces candidates
- June 14, 2010 – Candidates Night
- June General Board - Members vote

By-Laws Task Force (Established to reconsider and propose clarifications to By-laws, particularly around matters discussed over last few months. Consideration to be given to inclusion of non-Board member expert on Task Force.)

- Will Simpkins – Chair
- Rodolfo Estrada, Linda Walton, Charles Cooper, Kyle Doyle

West Harlem Rezoning

- DCP to present proposed rezoning at May General Board

Community Visioning on Re-use of Marine Transfer Station

- Saturday, May 8, 2010 - Over 75 attendees
- Summary of recommendations to be distributed to attendees
- Steering Committee to be established

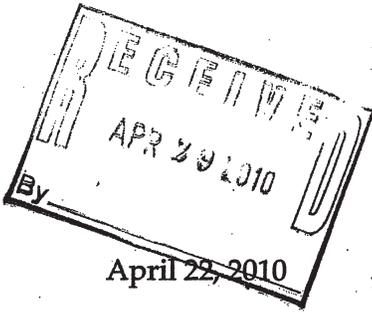
Committee Surveys

- Due May 7, 2010
- Response rate – LOW

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



April 22, 2010

The Honorable Daniel O'Donnell
The Assembly of the State of New York
245 West 104th Street
New York, New York 10025

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

We are in receipt of your April 9, 2010 letter to President Lee Bollinger and our Board of Trustees regarding the University-owned rowhouses at 408, 410 and 412 West 115th Street. As you know, these rowhouses were acquired by Columbia in 2002 in poor condition after years of neglect. The University has taken the future of this site and its impact on the surrounding community very seriously. However, because the rowhouses are inappropriate for University use, and given their derelict condition, a decision was made to demolish the structures. Consequently, as has been communicated to you, steps have been taken to obtain the necessary approvals to do so.

Columbia has remained highly responsive to the community's requests to meet and discuss these properties since the time of their purchase. University Administrators have met with representatives of area elected officials regarding this matter and have also met with members of the West 115th/116th Street Block Association on seven occasions. In order to ensure the highest quality of public safety protective scaffolding was installed surrounding the buildings and the University has remained responsive to neighboring resident's quality of life concerns regarding the site.

We are happy to continue the dialogue with area elected officials and residents as future plans for the site evolve.

Sincerely,

Maxine Griffith, AICP

Executive Vice President
for Government & Community Affairs
and Special Advisor, Campus Planning

April 22, 2010

Honorable Daniel O'Donnell

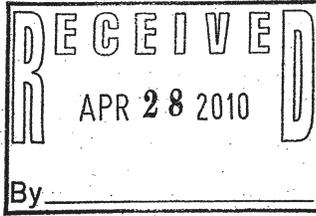
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cc: Mayor Michael Bloomberg
Congressman Charles Rangel
New York Council Speaker Christine Quinn
Hon. John Liu, Comptroller
Hon. Bill deBlasio, Public Advocate
Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Senator Bill Perkins
New York City Council Member Inez Dickens
New York City council Member Brad Lander
Pat Jones, Chair, Community Board 9
Walter south, Community Board 9
Simeon Bankoff, Historic Districts Council
Peg Breen, New York Landmarks Conservancy
Vin Cipolla, The Municipal Arts Society of New York
Arlene Simon, LANDMARK WEST
Kate Wood, LANDMARK West
Cynthia Doty, Westsiders for Responsible Development
Miki Fiegel, Westsiders for Responsible Development
Harry Schwartz, Committee to Preserve the Morningside Brownstones
Chair, Robert Tierney, New York Landmarks Preservation Commission



DANIEL O'DONNELL
Member of Assembly
69th Assembly District

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



CHAIR
Committee on Ethics
and Guidance
Codes Subcommittee on
Criminal Procedure

COMMITTEES
Codes
Education
Environmental Conservation
Judiciary
Oversight, Analysis and Investigation
Tourism, Parks, Arts and
Sports Development

April 23, 2010

Maxine Griffith
Executive Vice President for Government & Community Affairs
Columbia University
Low Library, Room 302
Mail Code 4319
535 West 116th Street
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Griffith,

It is disingenuous at best to disseminate the falsehoods contained in your letter dated April 22nd, 2010. Columbia University's actions contradict your assertion that the institution has "taken the future of this site and its impact on the surrounding community very seriously."

My office is aware that 408, 410 and 412 West 115th Street were utilized until Columbia took ownership. Yet, instead of maintaining those buildings, Columbia shuttered them and left them to deteriorate through neglect. As the owner of those buildings since 2002, Columbia University alone bears responsibility for their current condition.

Workers at the site have told neighbors that the rowhouses will be difficult to demolish because they are so solidly built and that the roofing materials are in such good condition that they could be salvaged for use at other locations.

I have asked the University to share the reports and documents which confirm that the structures are prohibitively expensive to rehabilitate. True to form, the University has refused to provide such documentation, damaging its credibility with me and the Morningside Heights community. Without a shred of transparency, Columbia does not deserve the benefit of being taken at its word.

Razing three of the earliest buildings constructed in Morningside Heights is unforgivable. I remain incredibly disappointed with Columbia's lack of creativity and unwillingness to imagine another solution that could be considered a win for both the University and the community. Being a good neighbor and taking the community's concerns seriously entails more than reiterating an intractable position at a few community meetings.

Very truly yours,

Daniel O'Donnell
Assembly Member

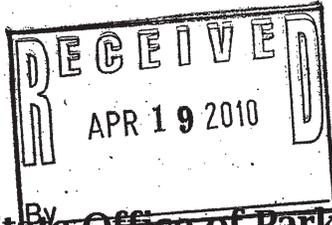
April 23, 2010

Maxine Griffith, Columbia University

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Arlene Simon, LANDMARK WEST!
Kate Wood, LANDMARK WEST!
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Miki Fiegel, Westsiders for Responsible Development
Harry Schwartz, Committee to Preserve the Morningside Brownstones
President Lee Bollinger, President, Columbia University
Chair Robert Tierney, New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission

DOD/sms



**New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza • Agency Building 1, Albany, New York 12238
www.nysparks.com

April 12, 2010

Ms. Patricia Jones, Chair
CB9M 16-18 Old Boradway
New York, NY 10027

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for contacting the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation with your concerns regarding the New York state park system. I appreciate and share the public's great affection for our treasured parks and historic sites.

Governor David Paterson and the legislature are in the process of negotiating one of the toughest budgets in New York history.

I assure you that I, along with the entire state park agency staff, take our responsibilities as stewards of our state parks and historic sites very seriously, and we will do everything possible to guide our world-class park system through these economic troubles. Thank you again for taking the time to express your concern for New York's state park system.

Sincerely,

Carol Ash
Commissioner

INEZ E. DICKENS

MAJORITY WHIP

9TH DISTRICT, MANHATTAN

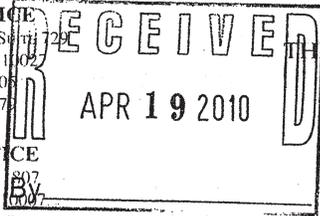
DISTRICT OFFICE
163 WEST 125TH STREET, SOUTH 125TH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10028
TEL.: (212) 678-4508
FAX: (212) 864-4377

CITY HALL OFFICE
250 BROADWAY, ROOM 807
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007
TEL.: (212) 788-7397
FAX: (212) 442-2732

idickens@council.nyc.gov



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK



April 16, 2010

CHAIR
STANDARDS & ETHICS

COMMITTEES

LAND USE
HEALTH
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
RULES, PRIVILEGES & ELECTIONS

SUB COMMITTEE

PLANNING, DISPOSITIONS & CONCESSIONS

Commissioner Jonathan Mintz
New York City Dept. of Consumer Affairs
42 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Commissioner Jeanette Sadik-Khan
New York City Dept. of Transportation
40 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013

Re: Kiosk Installation on West 116th Street

Dear Commissioners Mintz and Sadik-Khan:

I write to you today about the recent installation of a news kiosk on West 116th Street between Broadway and Claremont Avenue in my district. I have been contacted by many constituents living in the area, who have expressed their extreme displeasure with the new installation. The community has a number of reasons for their concerns.

First, the installation of this new kiosk flies directly in the face of the local Community Board 9, which passed an official resolution on February 18, 2004 opposing any additional street furniture in the area. The Community Board cited additional congestion for foot traffic, especially during the moving periods for the students at Columbia University. The Community Board also cited safety concerns and the cover for possible security breaches in the neighborhood.

The Community Board in 2004 and the local community members today feel that this newest kiosk would simply be one too many. There are already two newsstands above ground on the corner and one in the subway station at 116th and Broadway. The community feels rightly that yet another newsstand would create a glut and possibly compromise the small businesses that have thrived there and become part of the local fabric for over 20 years.

Last, I also have significant concerns about the aesthetics of the kiosk, which looks entirely out of place in the neighborhood. Even though the City flatly refuses to recognize the Morningside Heights area as an official historic district, this area is different architecturally from anywhere else in the City. This kiosk sticks out like a sore thumb among the beautiful buildings in the area.

At this time, I request at your earliest possible convenience an explanation of why this kiosk was disrespectfully allowed to be built over the long-standing objections of the Community Board and the local community. Furthermore, I request that the kiosk be immediately dismantled or relocated to another area, not in the immediate vicinity of the 116th Street and Broadway intersection.

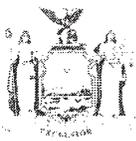
I thank you for your consideration of my request and look forward to your expeditious action to remove this kiosk from the area.

Sincerely,



Inez E. Dickens
Assistant Deputy Majority Leader

Cc: Assm. Danny O' Donnell
Former Assm. Ed Sullivan
Manhattan Community Board 9

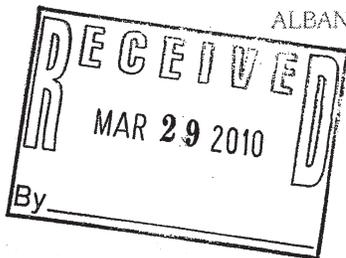


THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
CODES COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
CULTURAL AFFAIRS & TOURISM
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
HIGHER EDUCATION
JUDICIARY

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
SENATOR, 91ST DISTRICT
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER FOR POLICY



March 24, 2010

John L. Sampson
New York State Senate Democratic Conference Leader
409 Legislative Office Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Honorable Sampson:

I write to you today on behalf of not only the constituents of my district but also the millions of New Yorkers who visit Riverbank State Park each year.

Riverbank State Park is a truly special place for many reasons. Riverbank, the only State Park in New York City, was borne of community activism. It is located in West Harlem, literally on top of a wastewater treatment plant. In fact, the park was built as a concession to the community when the plant was located there against the wishes of an economically disadvantaged neighborhood that suffers disproportionately from environmentally-related problems, including high asthma rates.

Another reason that Riverbank is so special is because of its unique facilities, and the numerous athletic and cultural programs that are offered there. Within the 28 acre boundaries of this park are a number of vital spaces that are simply not available anywhere else in the area, including athletic fields, a skating rink, playgrounds and a 400 seat amphitheatre.

The value of this park is not lost on those who need it most. In fact, the community has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to the Park. The community recognizes, as I do, that Riverbank is an invaluable resource to an area that desperately needs – and makes use of – its precious few green spaces. Riverbank is the third most visited of New York's 178 state parks.

There is no denying that New York faces serious challenges in this year's budget. However, we must keep our priorities in order. The budget for Parks represents a tiny fraction of the overall State budget but cutting funding to the Park will have an enormous impact. Riverbank and other state parks provide jobs and tourism revenues for the State that will be lost should the parks be forced to close or reduce services. In addition to the real economic downfalls of underfunding the Parks, there are other losses that may be more difficult to quantify, for example, the loss of green space for communities with children who desperately need it.

The residents of West Harlem have suffered – from a wastewater treatment plant they did not want to continuing budget cuts to health care, education and social services. Enough is enough.

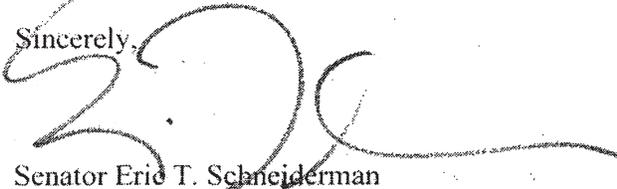
NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



Senator Sampson, the time to protect this invaluable community resource is now. Please join me in working to save funding for Riverbank and other state parks this year and in the future.

Sincerely,


Senator Eric T. Schneiderman

cc: Carol Ash, Commissioner of New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Hon. Scott Stringer, Manhattan Borough President
Hon. Jose M. Serrano, NYS Senator, Senate District 28; Chair of Cultural Affairs, Tourism, Parks and Recreation
Hon. Bill Perkins, NYS Senator, Senate District 30
Hon. Keith L. T. Wright, NYS Assemblymember, Assembly District 70
Hon. Daniel J. O'Donnell, NYS Assemblymember, Assembly District 69
Hon. Herman D. Farrell Jr., NYS Assemblymember, Assembly District 71
Hon. Adriano Espaillat, NYS Assemblymember, Assembly District 72
Hon. Robert Jackson, Councilmember, NYC Council District 7
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez, Councilmember, NYC Council District 10
Patricia A. Jones, District Chair, Manhattan NYC Community Board 9
Ebenezer Smith, District Manager, Manhattan Community Board 12
Ann Rocker, North River Community Environmental Review Board
New Yorkers to Save Riverbank State Park



THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIR
OFFICE

COMMITTEES
CHILDREN & FAMILIES
CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
FINANCIAL SERVICES
HEALTH CARE
INDUSTRY

ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
DEPUTY MAJORITY LEADER FOR POLICY

March 24, 2010

David A. Paterson
New York State Governor
State Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

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NEW YORK STATE SENATOR
ERIC T. SCHNEIDERMAN
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12224
PHONE: 518-485-2100
FAX: 518-485-2100

OFFICE
STATE SENATOR
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 12244
PHONE: 518-485-2100
FAX: 518-485-2100

NEW YORK
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ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



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