

APPENDIX G

WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE DEIS

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
CITIES
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
COMMITTEES
AGING
BANKS
EDUCATION
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
& MILITARY AFFAIRS

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



TONY AVELLA
SENATOR, 11TH DISTRICT

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Statement
New York State Senator Tony Avella

City Planning Commission
Public Hearing

Uniform Land Use Review Procedure Application #110398 ZMQ

In the matter of an application submitted by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the United States Tennis Association (USTA), pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City charter, for the disposition by lease of City-owned property to the USTA National Tennis Center, Inc. located northerly of United Nations Avenue North, between Meridian Road and Path of Americas, Block 2018 p/o Lot 1 within Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Borough of Queens

April 24, 2013

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to comment on the proposed expansion of the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

I am strongly opposed to the proposed expansion, which would require 0.68 acres of parkland to be permanently turned over to the USTA adding to the 42 acres of parkland that they already possess. In addition, after reviewing the USTA Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), I strongly believe that this application will result in an unnecessary alienation of parkland.

USTA alleges that taking over .68 acres of additional parkland is necessary to accomplish their proposed project, which include the renovation of the two deteriorating stadiums. However, their position is contrary to the language of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which indicates that these improvements can be implemented at the site without alienating additional parkland.

Chapter 17 in the EIS provides several alternatives, one of which is the Alternative Without Additional Park Land. While the statement indicates that this alternative plan would result in the lost opportunity to improve pedestrian circulation during the U.S. Open, nowhere does it state that the stadiums cannot be renovated under this alternative. In fact, it provides that this alternative will result in the the construction of replacement facilities in their current locations, as well as two parking garages.



Despite allegations by USTA that their facilities are open to the public, according to their website, it can cost as much as \$66 an hour to use their indoor tennis courts and \$32 an hour to use the outdoor courts. Considering that tennis courts at other parks throughout the City charge no more than \$15, their facility is neither affordable nor accessible to the regular park users of Flushing Meadows Corona Park. In addition, the USTA facility is closed to the general public for one month every year during the U.S. Open Tournament.

While the USTA has only recently indicated the possibility of replacing the lost parkland, they have yet to provide any specific information on where or when the parkland will be replaced. In addition, no assurance has been made to the public that the replacement would provide a meaningful and contiguous parkland for the affected community.

Parkland is sacred. The USTA expansion proposal will result in elimination of crucial parkland from our borough's most prominent park, which provides open space and recreational benefits to thousands of borough residents, which consist of immigrant families and low and middle income families.

For these reason, I strongly urge the City Planning Commission to disapprove this application. I have also asked the Landmarks Preservation Commission to consider landmarking Flushing Meadows Corona Park for its historic and intrinsic park aspects. No such parkland alienation should occur until the Commission had the chance to review my landmarking request.

Sincerely,



Tony Avella
Senator
11th Senatorial District



Jack Friedman, Executive Director
Albert F. Pennisi, Counsel

Carol Conslato, President
Mayra DiRico, 1st Vice President
Gerard J. Thornton, Treasurer

City Planning Meeting
USTA ULURP
April 24, 2013

Testimony By: Jack Friedman, Executive Director
Queens Chamber of Commerce

Good morning members of the New York City Planning Commission. My name is Jack Friedman and I am the Executive Director of the Queens Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of our nearly 1,000 business and business organization members, I am here in support of the USTA's plan to improve and expand the National Tennis Center (NTC) in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

This proposed project holds special significance to numerous businesses in Queens, and is especially vital when you consider that the US Open generates nearly \$750 million a year in economic activity for the city. Much of this money is spent on hotels, restaurants, entertainment and other purchases by the more than 700,000 spectators who descend upon Queens during the tournament. In Queens alone, the tournament is responsible for nearly 2,600 hotel room nights. Further, they generate over 6,000 seasonal jobs, many of which are for Queens residents. For a borough whose priority is maximizing tourism and hospitality opportunities, the USTA is a very important partner.

There's also a great financial impact during the rest of the year, and that's because the National Tennis Center hosts numerous tournaments that bring competing teams from all over the tri-state area and country to Queens to patronize our local businesses. The visiting tennis teams and their families stay at hotels in Corona, Flushing, East Elmhurst and elsewhere, dine at local restaurants, and shop at local businesses. Additionally, 100,000 tennis participants from more than 70 schools train and play matches at the Center, again, a boon to our local economy.

The USTA has been a great community partner. This past year the USTA allowed the Queens Tourism Council and the Queens Chamber of Commerce to operate a kiosk during the U.S. Open. This was a wonderful opportunity to offer guests information on places to eat, places to stay and places to go during their visit to Queens. Dozens of local restaurants, hotels and cultural venues benefitted through this effort.

Then there are the other benefits that can't necessarily be quantified. During the U.S. Open, millions of people, world-wide see Flushing Meadow Corona Park, our Unisphere and the beauty of Queens County; a marketing opportunity we could never afford on our own. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the USTA made donations of goods and money to relief efforts in Queens totaling more than \$400,000. The USTA worked with us to ensure these critical supplies reached those in need.

I urge you to support the USTA's expansion plan for the National Tennis Center because, it will create 800 good-paying construction jobs, increase opportunities to local Queens businesses and because they are a great economic engine for Queens and the City of New York.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Friedman", written in a cursive style.

Jack Friedman
Executive Director

PAUL GRAZIANO
146-24 32nd Avenue
Flushing, NY 11354
718.358.2535
paulgrazianohdc@yahoo.com

New York City Planning Commission
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007-1216

April 24th, 2013

Re: USTA Billie Jean King Tennis Center (C130155 PPQ)

The wrongheadedness that the USTA and the Parks Department has initiated with this proposal will have far-ranging negative consequences should it be adopted.

There are many, many arguments that can be made about the lack of outreach, obscene profit margins and negligible public access that will be brought up by the opponents of this project as well as the saccharin support from all tradesmen, business groups and non-profits that rely on the USTA's largesse.

I am going to focus on one issue only: the proposed alienation of our parkland.

In short, the USTA has the resources and current land area to develop their expansion without the addition of the .68 acres in question. This application does not revolve around the issue of whether this project will come to a screeching halt should this sliver of precious public parkland not be handed over to the USTA; this is an organization which currently has a lease on over 40 additional acres - property that will not revert back to the City of New York in my lifetime nor likely for anybody reading this testimony on the date of this hearing.

The cry of "What price: parkland?" has been debated over and over again in recent months. Some of the more misguided have tried to place a dollar figure on this sliver of public parkland, thinking to squeeze whatever concessions they can get out of the USTA and the Bloomberg administration. Perhaps, they think, it's worth \$5 million plus guaranteed jobs for those residents in surrounding neighborhoods. Maybe its worth \$12 million in a rotating fund for parks improvements. Or, more ambitiously, it might be worth unspecified donations to a conservancy-type organization that will become a "partner" in the further dismembering of the flagship park of Queens County.

All of this discussion of money as part of a deal is a red herring. **Simply put, there is no price tag for the theft, taking or privatization of our public parkland, no matter how small or large the parcel in question may be.**

To summarize: I vehemently oppose the giveaway of our public parkland to the USTA, or any other future development proposal, including the 50+ acres at the proposed Willets Point West mall and the proposed MLS stadium. For this Commission to consider handing over our public land in this manner brings us right back to the crooked deals that defined the corrupt administration of former Queens Borough President Donald Manes and the proposed Grand Prix raceway around Willow and Meadow lakes.

The Commission should not have to be reminded by the public that our parkland is not for sale!

Very Truly Yours,

Paul Graziano, Planning Consultant for *Save Flushing Meadows-Corona Park*
Associated Cultural Resource Consultants

ACRC

Associated Cultural Resource Consultants

Architectural Conditions Assessments

Register

Nominations

Urban Planning

Historic Preservation

Land

Use

My name is Ben Haber. I am a life long resident of Queens County. I am the President of The Civic Association of Kew Gardens Hills and I formerly served as the Chairperson of The Committee to Oppose Grand Auto Racing in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. (FMCP)

I oppose giving the USTA any more land in FMCP even one square inch and equally oppose any attempts by it to enlarge its structures in the park.

When the USTA opted to move out of Forest Hills to FMCP, an unprecedented usurpation of public park land, it promised it would never seek more park land. That promise had as much credibility as a dead tennis ball, and it thereafter demanded and was given space that almost doubled its presence in the park. It now seeks about one more acre and the right to significantly increase the size of its structures in the park. Ignoring for the moment even an inch of public park land is priceless, more cement and steel is a further environmental insult to the integrity of FMCP. It should be noted that as soon as the USTA was given park land, it moved its head offices out of Manhattan to the greener pastures of Harrison in Westchester County, a public cuckolding of the city if there ever was one.

In the depths of the great depression of the 1930s, New York City did not sell or barter park land and the claim the USTA generates revenue for the city, is morally and intellectually bankrupt since it concerns public park land. Furthermore, in a city with an annual economy in the hundreds of billions of dollars, the net amount of money the USTA generates does not put more police or fire fighters on the street or more teachers in our class rooms. In the over all scheme of things it is insignificant,

In 1895 Frederick Law Olmstead the genius who created Central and Prospect Parks in this city and other famous parks elsewhere said:

“ The survival of our park system requires the exclusion from management of real estate dealers and politicians and that the first duty of our park trustees is to hand down from one generation to the next the treasure of scenery which the city placed in their care.”

The huge increase in our urban population and the technological congestion in modern cities makes it clear Mr. Olmstead's admonition over 100 years ago, is even more pertinent today, but when it comes to FMCP it falls on deaf ears. The late Queens Boro President Donald Manes, a lawless discredit to the people of Queens, wanted to turn FMCP into another Meadowlands sports complex. Mr.

Manes' ill conceived plan may well become a reality if dozens or more park land are turned over to a professional for profit soccer stadium, another prostitution of public park land. It is ironic, but left unabated Mr. Manes a knave, will be smiling in his grave and Mr. Olmstead a true public servant, weeping in his grave.

In his play "Julius Caesar" Shakespeare wrote: "The fault dear Brutus, is not in our stars. But in ourselves, that we are underlings.

As to FMCP the fault dear people of Queens, is not in our stars, but in inept politicians who desecrate a much used and needed public park. Worthy of qualifying as public enemy number one of FMCP, is our current Queens Boro President Helen Marshall who thought it was a grand idea to cut down hundreds of trees and build a Grand Prix Race Track in the park; thought it was fine to give the USTA all the land it wants and then again and now surely more; thought it a great idea to build a huge Jets football stadium smack in the middle of the park.

The number of large non traditional park structures in FMCP may well exceed the combined total of structures in all city parks. Keep it up and our grand children and great grandchildren will damn you for depriving them of a true public park.

Benjamin M. Haber
138-27 78th Drive\
Kew Gardens Hills, New York 11367

April 24, 2013

To Whom It May Concern at the City Planning Commission:

I am deeply concerned that the takeover of Flushing Meadows/Corona Park lands for two stadiums, mall development and a parking lot is another big "land grab" by private developers engineered with the assistance of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and City Council President Christine Quinn. Fortunately no one in my neighborhood is fooled by this naked attempt to give private developers more land without proper community notification and input. This also belittles the power of our Queens Borough President and community boards.

I am asking that the City Planning Commission return oversight power to the hands of the neighborhoods surrounding Flushing Meadows/Corona Park. I thought that park lands can only be taken away by state legislation?

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Lee

Flushing, New York



New York City Planning Commission

**Public Hearing Regarding Proposed USTA Tennis Center Expansion
in Flushing Meadows Corona Park**

April 24, 2013

Testimony of Holly Leicht, New Yorkers for Parks

Good afternoon, I'm Holly Leicht, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks, the citywide independent organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods.

The USTA is proposing a \$500 million expansion of the 42-acre Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, including replacement of the 10,000-seat Armstrong with a 15,000-seat stadium, a new 8,000-seat grandstand on the campus' southwest corner, widened pedestrian paths, and a 2-story parking facility.

What complicates this proposed expansion is that the complex, which hosts the U.S. Open for several weeks each summer, is located on mapped parkland within the confines of Flushing Meadows Corona Park (FMCP), the largest park in Queens. It's among the city's most heavily used public spaces, especially by residents of nearby park-starved communities like Flushing, Corona, Elmhurst and Jackson Heights.

Park-users constantly tell us what a critical public resource FMCP is for Queens, both as a recreational mecca as well as a gathering place for family picnics and barbecues. But we also hear frustration about the park's endemic maintenance woes, from flooding and drainage problems to a constant battle against litter. This is a park already stretched to its limits.

In light of these challenges and the park's international exposure as the backdrop for the U.S. Open, one might expect the USTA to be an avid steward of FMCP. But historically there has been little relationship between the tennis complex and the park. Now, as the USTA looks to once again increase its footprint in and impact on this critical park, it's time that it start investing in the park as well as in its own facility.

The proposal calls for about 7/10 of an acre of parkland to be alienated, as well as an increase in the USTA's leasehold, new facilities that will increase capacity by 10,000, a parking garage, and a new

access road through passive open space, which is not being considered an alienation. The USTA and the City maintain that the parkland that would be alienated does not need to be replaced because the USTA campus is “public” 11 months of the year. But the tennis courts, for which the USTA charges \$40-\$66 an hour during peak times, are not remotely comparable in price to other Parks Department tennis courts and are too costly for most of the park’s neighbors.

The potential lost acreage may sound relatively small, but sanctioning parkland alienation without acre-for-acre replacement is unacceptable public policy. If an expensive pay-to-play tennis facility that contributes no annual funding to the park is deemed "public," where is the line drawn to protect city parkland from rampant privatization? Right now, USTA's annual rent payment – which won't increase after the expansion – goes entirely to the City's general fund, not to the park. The USTA nets hundreds of millions of dollars a year, but not a dime currently goes into Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

Before any approval is considered for an expansion that would allow the USTA to profit further from this park, the USTA – which, though a not-for-profit, reported a \$17 million surplus in 2010 – must commit to a significant, long-term investment in Flushing Meadows Corona Park and this community. This doesn't mean just funding one-time capital projects to sweeten the pot during the public review of this proposal. This means:

1. replacement of equal or more parkland than would be alienated;
2. an ongoing, annual contribution to the park's maintenance, as well as an upfront commitment to fund immediate capital projects selected in consultation with the Parks Department and the community;
3. active participation on the board of a new nonprofit dedicated to maintaining and operating the park;
4. a commitment to cease using public lawns for parking during the U.S. Open; and
5. a redefined relationship with park-users and neighbors to make the tennis complex a truly public facility that is welcoming to the surrounding community.

Thank you.

Application #: **C130155 PPQ**

Project Name: **USTA Expansion**

CEQR Number: 12DPR005Q

Borough(s): **Queens**

Community District Number(s): **3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9**

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- Complete this form and return to the Department of City Planning by one of the following options:
 - EMAIL (recommended):** Send email to CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov and include the following subject line: (CB or BP) Recommendation + (6-digit application number), e.g., "CB Recommendation #C100000ZSQ"
 - MAIL:** Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, Room 2E, 22 Reade Street, New York, NY 10007
 - FAX:** (212) 720-3356 and note "Attention of the Calendar Office"
- Send one copy of the completed form with any attachments to the applicant's representative at the address listed below, one copy to the Borough President, and one copy to the Borough Board, when applicable.

Docket Description:

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the USTA National Tennis Center Inc., pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the disposition of a lease of city-owned property to the USTA National Tennis Center Inc. located northerly of United Nations Avenue North, between Meridian Road and Path of Americas (Block 2018, p/o Lot 1) within Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Applicant(s): NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation(DPR) The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue NY., NY 100845 & USTA Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park		Applicant's Representative: Joshua Laird, Asst. Commissioner for for Planning & Parkland, DPR 212.360.3402
Recommendation submitted by: Queens Community Board 3		
Date of public hearing: 3/14/13		Location: ELMCOR 107-20 NORTHUM, BLVD. CORONA, NY
Was a quorum present? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board, but in no event fewer than seven such members.
Date of Vote: 3/14/13		Location: SAME AS ABOVE
RECOMMENDATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve With Modifications/Conditions		
<input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disapprove With Modifications/Conditions		
Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets, as necessary.		
Voting		
# In Favor: 33 # Against: 1 # Abstaining: 1 Total members appointed to the board: 42		
Name of CB/BB officer completing this form MARTHA E. Lebraton	Title CHAIRPERSON	Date 3/18/13

In the matter of ULURP #C130155PPQ/CEQR 12DPR005Q, Community Board 3 Queens met with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and Department of Parks and Recreation to review an application for the Expansion of the USTA. The committees that were involved in the discussion were Parks, Land Use, Traffic / Transportation and Business / Economic Development. The joint committees met on January 30th, February 6th, and March 5, 2013. Our public hearing was held on March 14, 2013 where over 200 residents were in attendance.

Community Board 3 Queens recommends that the Application for Expansion of the USTA in its current form be Disapproved with Modifications for the following reasons:

- USTA's plan to construct parking garages on mapped public parkland.
- There is no plan on file to replace the 0.68 acres of parkland.

Further, USTA's current proposal does not include:

- A plan to remediate the soil and study the long term health effects of cars parking on the grass.
- Develop a comprehensive parking plan by consulting with the surrounding Community Boards, mitigation of the traffic conditions through commissioning a new traffic study that would include Roosevelt Avenue, 108th Street, Northern Boulevard, Astoria Boulevard, Ditmars Boulevard, 34th Avenue and 37th Avenue.
- Plan for the replacement of Trees – when removed replace within Flushing Meadows Corona Park (FMCP). Landscaping that is done for the US Open should be maintained throughout the year.
- Safety Plan – during the US Open, rely on private security and less on local Police personnel. Improve lighting to ensure the safety of the patrons coming to and from the US Open.

In addition, the USTA's current proposal does not include a Community Benefits

Agreement that would allow for :

- USTA to partner with the local Business Improvement District for the purpose of cleaning up, maintaining and beautifying Roosevelt Avenue from 69th Street to 114th Street as it is the gateway to all the entertainment complexes within FMCP. USTA to commit to making improvements within FMCP. For example contribute to a fund for the restoration of the New York Pavillon, Meadow Lake and any other areas of FMCP that need regular maintenance, upkeep, and overall cleanliness.
- USTA to help establish a new and credible Conservancy to improve FMCP. It would have an annual expense budget of \$500,000 dollars or 2.5% of the gross revenue on an annual basis. The initial contribution to the Conservancy should be \$20 million dollars. Form an Advisory Council with one member from each of the surrounding community boards for oversight on funding and disbursements of funds to FMCP.

In addition, USTA's current proposal does not include provisions to increasing public accessibility to the grounds and programs such as:

- Community Boards that surround the facility should be provided with complimentary or significantly discounted grounds passes during the US Open and year round programs for youth and seniors. Further, tickets for Arthur Ashe Kid's Day should be given directly to each community board in Queens for distribution. The facility and grounds should be accessible to the public year round.
- Make the facilities available to community groups for meetings and events at no charge.

Finally, USTA's current proposal does not include:

- Improving communications to the community about USTA job openings for mid to high level positions.
- Establishing an annual Community Day for Queens Residents.
- Advertising what Queens has to offer before, during and after the US Open, including providing information about local businesses and cultural institutions when patrons purchase their tickets.
- Contracting with women, minority owned and local businesses in Queens for current and future projects. Further, setting aside 10% of the concession storefronts during the US Open for Queens based food services and restaurants located in the surrounding communities.

The motion to Disapprove with Modifications for USTA's current proposal was passed with a vote of 33 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

FMCP is very important to our community. It is equivalent to Manhattan's Central Park and Brooklyn, Prospect Park. It is the largest green and recreational space in the Borough of Queens and perhaps the City of New York. It is used by many who have little or no access to recreational space. That is why it is important that the recommendations put forth be seriously considered. If USTA incorporates the aforementioned, it would go a long way in gaining the support of the community.

###



COMMUNITY BOARD No. 3, Q.
82-11 37th Avenue, Suite 606
Jackson Heights, New York 11372
Telephone: (718) 458-2707 Fax: (718) 458-3316
www.CB3QN.NYC.GOV

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE



Date: Thursday, March 14, 2013

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: ElmcOR

107-20 Northern Blvd., Corona, NY

Re: USTA Expansion Proposal

(Flushing Meadows- Corona Park)

Community Board #3 will hold a Public Hearing to review the following proposal:

In the matter of an application submitted by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the USTA National Tennis Center Inc., pursuant to section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the disposition of a lease of city – owned property to the USTA National Tennis Center Inc. located northerly of United Nations Avenue North, between Meridian Road and Path of Americas (Block 2018, p.o. Lot 1) within Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Seeking approval for the disposition of 0.68 acres of city property by long-term lease to USTA to facilitate the improvement and expansion of the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center (NTC). These improvements collectively are known as the NTC Strategic Vision.

Elements of the proposed project:

- A. Relocate Grandstand Stadium
- B. Relocate tournament courts with a new walkway, along the southern boundary of the site.
- C. Reconfigure northwest tournament courts and elevated viewing platform.
- D. Two new parking garages and relocated transportation center.
- E. Relocate connector road.
- F. Replacement of Louis Armstrong Stadium and provide a new adjacent administrative and retail building.
- G. Improvements to Arthur Ashe stadium.

The public is invited to express their opinion on the above proposal. Please come to the public hearing and also notify your neighbors about this important meeting. For further information call Community Board #3 at (718) 458-2707. All are welcome!

(See the map on the reverse side)

COMMUNITY BOARD 3, Q LIST OF CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS (42) Quorum 22

Attendance

Date: March 14, 2013

- Patrick Beckles
- Emma Brandt
- Kelit K. Brown
- Ann S. Brown
- Elba Buendia
- Shiv Dass
- Sonya Davis Roberts
- Howard Dent II
- Vivian Dock
- Margaret Dozier
- Johnny Espinal
- Donovan Finn
- Vasantrai Gandhi
- Raul Garcia
- Alfredo Gomez
- Joyce Hucless-Julian
- Norma Jimenez
- Andrew S. Kim
- Stephen Kulhanek
- Grace Lawrence
- Marta Lebreton

- Brunilda Leon
- Martin Maier
- Caridad Mak
- Lynda McDougald
- William Meehan
- Lisa Mesulam
- Ralph Moreno
- Dorothy Phelan
- Jairo Rodriguez
- Jose Rodriguez
- Leoncio Romero
- Edmund Rosenbaum
- David Rosero
- Arturo Ignacio Sanchez
- Jimmy Smith
- Arthur Teiler
- Shanel Thomas
- Pat Thorpe
- Hamlett Wallace
- Edwin Westley
- William Young

Giovanna Reid, District Manager

Claudia Filomena, Mayor's Office, CAU

City Council:

- Council. Julissa Ferreras, 21st CD *Wendy Rodriguez*
- Council. Daniel Dromm, 25th CD
- Assy. Jeffrion Aubry, 35th AD *Lilly Picoche*
- Assy. Michael DenDekker, 34th AD *Maureen Allen*
- Assembly Member Francisco P. Moya

State Senator

Sen. Jose Peralta *Deanna Forte*

U. S. Congress:

- Congressman Joseph Crowley, #7 CD *Barbara Jackson*
- Fred Lee, City Planning, Q.B.P.O.

GUESTS: Lisa Atkins, QBPO

Jorge Fenjul - NYC Comptrollers Office

✓ - Present (35)
X - Absent (7)



COMMUNITY BOARD # 4Q

Serving: Corona, Corona Heights, Elmhurst, and Newtown

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Corona, New York

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Fax: 718-760-5971

e-mail: qn04@cb.nyc.gov

Helen Marshall
Borough President

Louis Walker
Chairperson

Barry Grodenchik
Director of Community Boards

Christian Cassagnol
District Manager

March 15, 2013

USTA EXPANSION C130155PPO

REVISED SUBMISSION NO VOTE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS AS OF MARCH 15, 2013

CB4Q's ULURP Committee Recommends A No Vote Unless All The Following Stipulations Are Met:

---\$15 million in a trust fund to be used exclusively for FMCP with an additional \$500k/year maintenance fund to be overseen by an advisory board composed of members from all affected Community Boards.

---Replacement of park land to be exclusively within the FMCP through the giving back of any alienated land (equal to or exceeding 0.68 acres.)

---Overall better safety within the park including but not limited to better lighting and security cameras at key locations.

---Better community outreach with reference to community related events, special programs, discounts and the distribution of tickets to local organizations on Arthur Ashe Day.

---The bringing back of "Queens Day: (to be sponsored by the USTA).

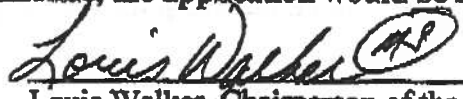
---The reimplementation of the park trolley.

---Develop the South end of the park for more exposure to the natural waterway. Renewal of the model airplanes field, and kite flying fields, and possibility of bringing back canoeing and kayaking to Willow Lake at FMCP.

---Police from all 5 Community Boards to take part in a special FMCP Task Force.

---Section near the blue box trailer at the SW Corner of Meadow Lake would be prime location for a multipurpose center. (Police units, Park Rangers, staging area for various venues including bird walks, nature trail walks, and Boy and Girl Scouts).

If all conditions are met with a Timeline, the application would be approved.


Louis Walker, Chairperson of the Board



Community/Borough Board Recommendation

Pursuant to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure

Application #: **C130155-PPQ**

Project Name: **USTA Expansion**

CEQR Number: 12DPR005Q

Borough(s): Queens

Community District Number(s): 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete this form and return to the Department of City Planning by one of the following options:
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 - **FAX:** (212) 720-3356 and note "Attention of the Calendar Office"
2. Send one copy of the completed form with any attachments to the applicant's representative at the address listed below, one copy to the Borough President, and one copy to the Borough Board, when applicable.

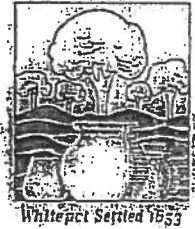
Docket Description:

IN THE MATTER OF an application submitted by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the USTA National Tennis Center Inc., pursuant to Section 197-c of the New York City Charter, for the disposition of a lease of city-owned property to the USTA National Tennis Center Inc. located northerly of United Nations Avenue North, between Meridian Road and Path of Americas (Block 2018, p/o Lot 1) within Flushing Meadows-Corona Park.

Applicant(s): NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DPR) The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue NY., NY 100645 & USTA Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park	Applicant's Representative: Joshua Laird, Asst. Commissioner for for Planning & Parkland, DPR 212.360.3402
Recommendation submitted by: Queens Community Board 6	
Date of public hearing: 2/13/13 Location: 80-02 Kew Gardens Rd., Kew Gardens, NY	
Was a quorum present? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> <small>A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board, but in no event fewer than seven such members.</small>	
Date of Vote: 3/13/13 Location: 80-02 Kew Gardens Rd., Kew Gardens, NY	
RECOMMENDATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Approve With Modifications/Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove With Modifications/Conditions Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets, as necessary.	
Voting # In Favor: 25 # Against: 5 # Abstaining: Total members appointed to the board: 34	
Name of CB/BB officer completing this form <i>Shank Jellison</i>	Title Signature Dist Mgr <i>[Signature]</i> CBB S-15-B



Community Board 6, Queens
 104-01 Metropolitan Avenue ♦ Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375-4136
 Tel.: (718) 263-9250 ♦ Fax: (718) 263-2211
 E-mail: cb6q@nyc.rr.com
 www.queen6cb6.org



Helen M. Marshall
 Queens Borough President

Joseph C. Hennessy
 Chairman

Frank P. Gulluscio
 District Manager

Gail M. Gordon
 1st Vice Chairman

Steven Goldberg
 2nd Vice Chairman

Elizabeth Anderson
 Vice Chairman - Secretary

Todd Reisman
 Vice Chairman - Finance

Norman Tepper, P.E.
 Vice Chairman - Land Use

Lynn C. Schifman
 Vice Chairman - Recycling

WHEREAS,

the proposed acquisition of parkland will allow the USTA to attract an additional 100,000 paying visitors each year and receive substantial additional revenue from this acquisition of parkland,

AND WHEREAS

This acquisition is being made without the replacement of parkland being "alienated,"

BE IT RESOLVED,

That Community Board 6 suggests that the USTA, as a showing of good faith to the surrounding communities, agrees to the following:

1. Donate additional funding for annual maintenance, security, and upkeep of Flushing Meadows Corona Park.
2. Replace trees that will be damaged or removed for USTA development.
3. Design the parking garages to conform to Dept. of Parks design.
4. Be part of a committee of representatives from the surrounding Community Boards to discuss and determine areas of needed maintenance and upkeep.
5. All construction jobs should use unionized trade workers.



Community/Borough Board Recommendation
Pursuant to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure

Application #: **C130155 PPQ**

Project Name: **USTA Expansion**

CEQR Number: 12DPR005Q

Borough(s): Queens
Community District Number(s): 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 & 9

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- Complete this form and return to the Department of City Planning by one of the following options:
 - EMAIL (recommended):** Send email to CalendarOffice@planning.nyc.gov and include the following subject line: (CB or BP) Recommendation + (8-digit application number), e.g., "CB Recommendation #C100002SQ"
 - MAIL:** Calendar Information Office, City Planning Commission, Room 2E, 22 Rensselaer Street, New York, NY 10007
 - FAX:** (212) 720-3356 and note "Attention of the Calendar Office"
- Send one copy of the completed form, with any attachments to the applicant's representative at the address listed below, one copy to the Borough President, and one copy to the Borough Board, when applicable.

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On March 11, 2013 at our Public Hearing the motion on the floor was to approve with conditions. We attach acopy of the conditions that were listed with the motion to approve, of which there were nine (9)

Applicant(s): NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation(DPR) The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue NY., NY 100645 & USTA Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park		Applicant's Representative: Joshua Laird, Asst. Commissioner for for Planning & Parkland, DPR 212.360.3402
Recommendation submitted by: Queens Community Board 7		
Date of public hearing: 3/11/13		Location: UNION PLAZA CARE CENTER 33-25 UNION STREET
Was a quorum present? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> <small>A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board, but in no event fewer than seven such members.</small>		
Date of Vote: 3/11/13		Location: SAME
RECOMMENDATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve With Modifications/Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove With Modifications/Conditions Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets, as necessary.		
Voting # In Favor: 30 # Against: 6 # Abstaining: 0 Total members appointed to the board: 48		
Name of CB/BB officer completing this form EUGENE T. KELTY		Title CHAIRPERSON
		Date 3/12/13

The parking garages – it was mentioned before and again that the façade should be aesthetically pleasing and conform to the look of a park.

Page 2.

Traffic Study – should include the area by Sky View park (on C.P. Blvd.) & the World's Fair Marina – DOT will do a traffic study on C.P. Blvd.

Pablo Hernandez asked how much \$ the USTA re-invests back in the community – as per Danny Zausner, the \$ is in the form of discounts, and includes all of the programs for seniors, juniors etc.

Arthur Ashe Day – the ticket formula was discussed – it has been handled by the Boro President's office for many years now – the USTA doesn't really have a say in this – Chair Ohanian suggested that all of the 6 CB's ask the Boro Pres. to give ticket preference to the Boards that surround the park.

Yearly lease – fixed rent plus % of gross revenues - \$2.5 million in 2012.

Jobs – 55 year round NTC employees – 26 are from Queens – various levels of positions – longevity of employment (15 year average).

Chair Kelty asked that the USTA be better neighbors by helping DPR keep the area clean outside their fence line as well as inside.

DPR will provide an assessment of trees lost to the tornado and the storms in 2012, 2011 & 2012 – we also asked for a map identifying the areas of damage from these storms.

Vice-chair Apelian made a motion to approve with the following conditions, which was seconded by Joe Femenia:

1. The USTA would establish a capital endowment fund of \$15 million and an annual expense fund of \$300,000 for maintenance & all money would be used only for FMCP – oversight of all funding will include a member of each of the affected CB's
2. All trees damaged or needing to be replaced must be done within FMCP – any additional trees will be placed within the 6 community boards park locations
3. Substantial discount program for seniors and children in the zip codes surrounding FMCP
4. The parking garages exterior design (façade) must be aesthetically pleasing and in conformance with a park design
5. Tryouts for the National Anthem or any other event will be held in Queens
6. Arthur Ashe day – allocation of tickets should be given directly to the surrounding CB's
7. Continued evaluation & mitigation of all concerns
8. USTA to be in partnership with DPR on maintenance and cleanliness of the perimeter of the USTA property
9. USTA will give priority for goods & services to local vendors when buying.



Community/Borough Board Recommendation
Pursuant to the Uniform Land Use Review Procedure

Application #: **C130155 PPQ**

Project Name: **USTA Expansion**

CEQR Number: 12DPR005Q

Borough(s): **Queens**

Community District Number(s): **3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9**

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

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Applicant(s): NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation (DPR) The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue NY., NY 100645 & USTA Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park		Applicant's Representative: Joshua Laird, Asst. Commissioner for for Planning & Parkland, DPR 212.360.3402	
Recommendation submitted by: Queens Community Board 8			
Date of public hearing: February 26, 2013		Location: Hillside Manor 198-11 Hillside Avenue, Hollis, NY	
Was a quorum present? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		<small>If public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board, but is no lower than seven such members.</small>	
Date of Vote: March 13, 2013		Location: Hillcrest Jewish Center 183-02 Union Turnpike, Fresh Meadows	
RECOMMENDATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove <input type="checkbox"/> Approve With Modifications/Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove With Modifications/Conditions Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets, as necessary.			
Voting # In Favor: 26 # Against: 8 # Abstaining: Total members appointed to the board: 47			
Name of CB/BB officer completing this form Alvin Washburn		Title Chairperson	Date 3/14/2013

Motion:

Robert Van Pelt made a motion to approve ULURP No: 130155PPQ – USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Project, seconded by Mark J. Lefkof with the following stipulations/conditions:

- .68 acre will be replaced in another location within FMCP.
- \$15 million will be donated upfront to an escrow account for a newly expanded FMCP conservancy to benefit the park.
- \$1 million annual operating fund dedicated directly to the park's upkeep for the duration of the lease to be adjusted with the cost of living.
- A Community Advisory Board (CAB) will be created with at least two members of each affected community board (3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9) to hold regularly scheduled bimonthly meetings.
- Discounted tickets will be provided for the US Open to residents of the affected community boards, with eligibility to be determined by the community boards.
- Free admission to Arthur Ashe Kids' Day will be determined by the affected community boards, not Borough President's Office.
- Job fairs will be provided to the residents of the affected community boards prior to the job fairs held for the general populations.
- Construction job opportunities will be provided for Unions and Minority/Women Owned Businesses.
- Tennis programs will be offered to public schools and Beacon programs within Community Board 8.
- Creation of tennis courts at Junior High School 216 and M.S. 217, including installation of equipment for hanging nets, nets and court boundary lines.

Approved on 3/13/2013

Vote: 26 in favor, 8 opposed, 0 abstentions

Community Board 8, Queens

Application #: **C130155 PPQ**

Project Name: **USTA Expansion**

CEQR Number: 12DPR005Q

Borough(s): Queens

Community District Number(s): 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 & 9

Please use the above application number on all correspondence concerning this application

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

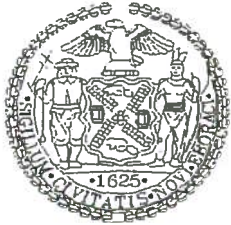
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** Please see attached resolution. (AP)*

Applicant(s): NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation(DPR) The Arsenal, Central Park, 830 Fifth Avenue NY., NY 100645 & USTA Tennis Center, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park		Applicant's Representative: Joshua Laird, Asst. Commissioner for for Planning & Parkland, DPR 212.360.3402	
Recommendation submitted by: Queens Community Board 9			
Date of public hearing: 2/12/13		Location: Kew Gardens Community Center 80-02 Kew Gardens Rd, Kew Gardens NY 11424	
Was a quorum present? YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		A public hearing requires a quorum of 20% of the appointed members of the board, but in no event fewer than seven such members.	
Date of Vote: 3/12/13		Location: Majestic Marquise 88-03 101 Ave Ozone Park, NY 11416	
RECOMMENDATION			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve		<input type="checkbox"/> Approve With Modifications/Conditions	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disapprove		<input type="checkbox"/> Disapprove With Modifications/Conditions	
Please attach any further explanation of the recommendation on additional sheets, as necessary.			
Voting			
# In Favor: 22		# Against: 20	
# Abstaining: 1		Total member appointed to the board: 47	
Name of CB/BB officer completing this form Lucia Jones		Title Community Associate	Date 3/15/13



COMMUNITY BOARD NO.9

Queens Borough Hall
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Room 310-A
Kew Gardens, NY 11424

(718) 286-2686
Fax (718) 286-2685
Meeting Hotline (718) 286-2689
Email communitybd9@nyc.rr.com

James Coccovillo, Chairperson * Mary Ann Carey, District Manager * Helen Marshall, Borough President

March 14, 2013

NYC Department of City Planning
Calendar Information Office
22 Reade Street
New York, NY 10007
Room 2E

Re: **ULURP Application for Disposition of City Property**
USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center Strategic Vision Plan
ULURP No. 130155PPQ

On March 13, 2013, at its regular monthly meeting, Queens Community Board 9 defeated a motion to approve the alienation of .68 acres to the US Tennis Association by a vote of 22 to 20 (plus 1 abstention).

The meeting took place at the MARJESTIC MARQUISE located at 88-03 101st Avenue in Ozone Park, NY 11416.

Thus the Board opposes this application for alienation of .68 acres of park land to the USTA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Coccovillo". To the right of the signature is a circular stamp containing the initials "JC".

James Coccovillo
Chairperson

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS OF AMERICA
NEW YORK CITY & VICINITY DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS



INSTITUTED AUGUST 12TH, 1881

MICHAEL R. BILELLO
Executive Secretary - Treasurer

STEPHEN C. McINNIS
President

MICHAEL P. CAVANAUGH
Vice President

395 HUDSON STREET - 9TH FLOOR

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10014

PHONE: (212) 366-7500

FAX: (212) 675-3118

www.nydistrictcouncil.com

March 6, 2013

Marta E. Lebreton
Chair
Queens Community Board 3
82-11 37th Avenue
6th Floor
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

SUBJECT: United States Tennis Association Expansion Plan at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park

Dear Ms. Lebreton,

The New York City and Vicinity District Council of Carpenters, consisting of eight local unions representing 23,000 working members throughout the metropolitan region, strongly opposes the United States Tennis Association's (USTA) proposal to expand its 42-acre center located at Flushing Meadows-Corona Park. The District Council shares with the Queens community and other labor organizations serious concerns to the proposal, because the USTA has not shown itself to be a friend of working people.

In the past, the USTA has hired contractors that do not meet area labor standards. In 2008, for example, the USTA hired R&B Drywall for rehabilitation and renovations. This general contractor does not pay the area standard wages to their carpenter employees, including providing or fully paying for health benefits and pension. Furthermore, on a yearly basis during the U.S Open, trade show carpenters do not receive proper wages and are denied benefits.

Contrary to statements made by USTA officials at a recent Queens Community Board 9 meeting, which stated that thousands of union construction jobs would be created, there has been no commitment made by the USTA to the Building Trades. In actuality, several attempts made by

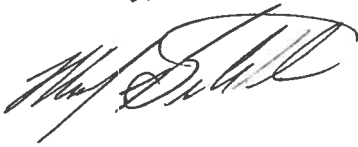
the District Council and the Building Trades to arrange a high-level meeting with USTA have been unsuccessful.

Irresponsible development is a danger to the community, and the USTA's history of labor violations and hostility towards organized labor shows this proposal for an additional .68-acre will only be beneficial to the USTA, undermining the community and the working men and women of this City.

We ask you to oppose the application in its entirety until there is a commitment from the USTA to use contractors that pay area standards.

If you have any further questions, you can reach me at 212.366.7400.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Bilello". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Bilello" clearly visible.

Michael R. Bilello
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
NYCDCC