



Queens Civic Congress

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**Testimony
to
Community Board 5
in Support of a Park at the former St. Saviour's site**

On behalf of the Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella organization for more than 110 community and neighborhood based groups representing tenants, co-op and condo owners and homeowners living in every part of Queens, this testimony to Community Board 5 supports the efforts of Western Queens community and parks activists to secure more open space where communities remain underserved compared to other New York City and Queens neighborhoods. The economy and an apparent [change](#) of heart by the New York Department of Parks and Recreation offer an opportunity to put City Hall on the spot to devote resources to allow the reuse of the former St. Saviour's site as a community open space.

Queens Civic Congress issued a "[Green Statement](#)" almost two years ago to help drive the notion that the City must protect, maintain public open spaces and green areas and acquire private ones susceptible to development when community needs make plain the need to preserve such spaces for passive and active recreational uses.

Community Board 5, by including a request for funding the acquisition of the former St. Saviour's site, helps drive the momentum created by the Commissioner Adrian Benepe's [willingness](#) to acquire the site if funding becomes available. The process – quite rightly – starts with the community indicating support and we all know how electeds rely on community boards as excuses or for rationales for funding decisions. We need our electeds on the hook here and a funding recommendation by Community Board 5 represents the best means to move the process to get our electeds behind this opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Find Queens Civic Congress [Members](#) on the next or on the web at:
<http://queensciviccongress.org/organization/members.php>.

[[Read](#) the Historic Districts Council testimony]

[[Read](#) the Newtown Historical Society [testimony](#)]

[[Read letter](#) from Urban Planner Paul Graziano, past HDC President and QCC Landmarking & Historical Preservation Chair]

[[Read letter](#) to Mayor from Council Member Elizabeth Crowley]

[See also [St. Saviour's Reconstruction Funded for 2010](#) and [Rally supports Park at St. Saviour's site.](#)]

Queens Civic Congress Members

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