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FRANCHISE AND CONCESSION REVIEW COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

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October 12, 2021

2:30 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

22 Reade Street

New York, New York

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A P P E A R E A N C E S :

Mayor: Bess Chiu
Office of the Mayor: Julie Bero
Corporation Counsel: Kenisha Sutton
Office of Management and Budget: Yvonne Quintian
Comptroller: John Katsorhis
Bronx Borough President: Mirtha Camille Sabio
Brooklyn Borough President: Tonya Cantlo
Manhattan Borough President: Rosura Mendez
Queens Borough President: Allan Swisher
Staten Island Borough President: Stephen Caracappa
Parks and Recreation Representative: Alexander Han
Clerk: Gregg Alleyne
Clerk Alternate: Alexandre Stamoulis

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THE CHAIR: Good afternoon. If you are unable to join these proceedings in person, please join via the following Microsoft Teams dial-in information: Phone number is (646)893-7101. The phone conference ID number is 217 601 855.

Again, the phone number is (646)893-7101. And the phone conference ID is 217 601 855.

The Public Hearing will now come to order. Will the Clerk please call the roll?

THE CLERK: Mayor?

MS. CHIU: Here.

THE CLERK: Office of the Mayor?

MS. BERO: Here.

THE CLERK: Comptroller?

MR. KATSORHIS: Here.

THE CLERK: Corporation counsel?

MS. SUTTON: Here.

THE CLERK: Office of Management and Budget?

MS. QUINTIAN: Here.

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THE CLERK: President, Borough
of the Bronx?

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MS. SABIO: Mirtha Camille Sabio
for Bronx Borough President, Ruben
Diaz, Junior.

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THE CLERK: President, Borough
of Brooklyn?

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MS. CANTLO-COCKFIELD: Tonya
Cantlo-Cockfield, representing
Brooklyn Borough President, Eric
Adams.

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THE CLERK: President, Borough
of Manhattan?

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MS. MENDEZ: Rosie Mendez,
Borough President Gale Brewer.

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THE CLERK: President, Borough
of Queens.

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MR. SWISHER: Allan Swisher, for
Queens Borough President Donovan
Richards.

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THE CLERK: President, Borough
of Staten Island.

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MR. CARACAPPA: Stephen
Caracappa, for Staten Island Borough

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President, James Oddo.

THE CLERK: Representative from
the Department of Parks and
Recreation.

MR. HAN: Alexander Han,
Assistant Commissioner, planning and
development.

THE CLERK: Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Welcome to this
public hearing of the Franchise &
Concession Review Committee. The
hearing being conducted today has been
publicly advertised in accordance with
the New York City Charter and
Concession Rules of the City of New
York. We want to be sure that anyone
desiring to be heard has an
opportunity to do so. All persons
wishing to speak must fill out a
request slip which may be obtained
from the Clerk. Each speaker will be
allotted approximately three minutes.
When you testify, please state your
name and affiliation, if any.

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2 For members of the public
3 attending via the Microsoft Teams
4 dial-in, we ask that you announce your
5 name for the record each time you
6 speak on the call for ease of
7 transcription. If you are not
8 speaking, we ask that you mute your
9 microphone to avoid background noises
10 during the call. All persons
11 attending remotely who wish to speak
12 must provide their name, affiliation,
13 indicate which calendar item they wish
14 to testify on and whether they are
15 "For" or "Against" said item to the
16 Clerk at this time.

17 You may also submit written
18 testimony to the Clerk, which will be
19 made part of the record. Any written
20 submissions must be given to the clerk
21 before the close of the public
22 hearing. You may also submit written
23 testimony to the Clerk also via e-mail
24 at fcrc@mocs.nyc.gov. That e-mail
25 address is fcrc@mocs.nyc.gov.

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2 Will the Clerk please call the
3 first calendar item.

4 THE CLERK: New York City
5 Department of Parks and Recreation,
6 calendar item number one. In the
7 matter of the intent to seek Franchise
8 and Concession Review Committee
9 approval pursuant to Section 1-14 of
10 the Concession Rules of the City of
11 New York, to enter into a negotiated
12 Concession Agreement with Affiniti
13 Ferry Point, LLC for the operation,
14 management, and maintenance of an
15 18-hole Jack Nicklaus signature golf
16 course, lighted driving range,
17 clubhouse and ancillary facilities at
18 Ferry Point Park, the Bronx, for a
19 13-year term.

20 THE CHAIR: We will take
21 testimony from the public, but first
22 I'd like to ask members of the
23 Committee if they have any statements.

24 MR. KATSORHIS: Comptroller's
25 Office has a statement.

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THE CHAIR: Comptroller. Go ahead.

MR. KATSORHIS: Today, this Committee finds itself reviewing yet again another rushed award of a concession agreement with the Department of Parks and Recreation without full transparency as to how the agency made its determination to select the proposed concessionaire. This is becoming a troubling pattern.

When the award documents were distributed on Monday, October 4, 2021 by the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, this office e-mailed MOCS requesting that Parks provide certain documents referenced in but missing from the distributed material, as well as additional documentation relating to the evaluation and selection process.

After multiple follow-up attempts, we finally received the requested material link this morning.

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2 This behavior has become a pattern
3 with Parks where it circulates
4 incomplete packages, pushes forward
5 with public hearing processes and
6 waits until the last possible moment
7 to share missing and requested
8 information. This leaves our office
9 with insufficient time to review
10 materials and determine if the
11 evaluation of the respondents was done
12 properly, and if the selection of the
13 concessionaire is in the best interest
14 of the City.

15 While there was no time to
16 review this newly submitted
17 information, our office would expect
18 that these documents explain how Parks
19 evaluated all parties to the joint
20 venture originally considered for
21 award consisting of the current
22 vendor, as well as Core Services
23 Group, a vendor that recently entered
24 into a certification agreement with
25 the Department of Social Services, and

1
2 that presumably has no experience to
3 operate such a venue.

4 We also hope that it explains
5 how Parks, having had access to
6 adverse information for Core Services
7 Group in Passport for months only
8 became aware of it on September 29,
9 2021.

10 And finally, whether or not the
11 results of the Parks evaluations of
12 expressions of interest may have been
13 different had Core been removed from
14 the joint venture before selection was
15 made and not after a month later.

16 MR. STAMOULIS: One moment,
17 please. We are having some technical
18 difficulties.

19 We are going to ask the
20 Comptroller to begin his statement
21 from the top so everyone can hear it.
22 I'm very sorry for the inconvenience
23 to everyone here, but we want to make
24 sure that everyone participating
25 remotely can fully participate.

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MR. KATSORHIS: Can everyone
hear me?

Yes. Okay.

Today, this Committee finds
itself reviewing yet again another
rushed award of a concession agreement
with the Department of Parks and
Recreation without full transparency
as to how the agency made its
determination to select the proposed
concessionaire. This is becoming a
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12 results of the Parks evaluations of
13 expressions of interest may have been
14 different had Core been removed from
15 the joint venture before selection was
16 made and not a month after.

17 Beyond these unanswered
18 questions, this office has concerns
19 about the rushed nature of this award
20 and the number of years of the
21 proposed concession. Rather than
22 proceeding with the request for
23 proposal, as it typically does for
24 concessions, Parks chose a faster
25 paced process, citing the need to

1
2 award a new license agreement by
3 November 2021. This shortened
4 timeframe is a situation created by
5 the City when it terminated the prior
6 agreement without having a proper plan
7 in place for the concession's
8 continued operation. Parks also
9 describes this proposed 13-year award
10 to be a, quote, temporary solution,
11 end quote. Which objectively seems
12 long term.

13 Additionally, earlier this year,
14 Parks advertised its intent to enter
15 into a negotiating concession
16 agreement and its plan to evaluate
17 applicants based on set criteria.
18 However, Parks had not provided
19 anything to support how it considered
20 each interested vendor against the set
21 criteria, including in the areas of
22 capital investment, improvement and
23 designs, operating experience,
24 financial capability, planned
25 operations, the fee offer and the

1
2 potential ability to attract
3 professional tournaments hosted by the
4 PGA and similar organizations.

5 Based on everything that I've
6 mentioned here today, this office
7 believes that the FCRC public meeting
8 scheduled for tomorrow, October 13,
9 2021, should be held over to a future
10 date to allow this Committee and its
11 members adequate time to review
12 materials, ask follow-up questions and
13 conduct their due diligence on the
14 proposal award.

15 Thank you.

16 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Are
17 there any other members of the
18 Committee that would like to make a
19 statement?

20 (No response.)

21 THE CHAIR: Will the Clerk
22 please call the next person who wishes
23 to testify.

24 THE CLERK: John Benizi
25 (phonetic). Please provide your full

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name and affiliation for the record.

MR. BENIZI: Yes, thank you very much. My name is John Benizi. I'm representing the Bronx Chamber of Commerce as its business development committee chair. Thank you for having me here today.

Once again, my name is John Benizi. I'm the business development committee chair for the Bronx Chamber of Commerce.

Our organization has held golf outings and other events in this vicinity since its inaugural -- we intimately aware of the cost the restaurant attached to it and the management of the venue since its grand opening. As Bronxites, we are also aware of the decades that it took to actually transform this parcel of land from a City dump into a Class A operation. We don't want to see yet another deterioration of the great things we love about the Bronx and our

1
2 City brought on by politicized
3 opportunism.

4 We are opposed to this on the
5 following issues: Affiniti Ferry
6 Point LLC is a recently established
7 sub entity of Atlanta based Bobby
8 Jones Links organization, an
9 organization with limited golf course
10 management experience as compared to
11 the experience of the current
12 management organization.

13 Affiniti operates solely within
14 the State of Georgia and lacks
15 experience without a local climate,
16 local native brasses and other
17 particulars of golf course management
18 in the northeast United States.
19 Moreover, Affiniti's lack of
20 verifiable restaurant experience
21 speaks against its ability to meet the
22 needs of this Concession's importance
23 to the Bronx.

24 The very fact that Affiniti was
25 only recently formed here,

1
2 suspiciously asks to what degree the
3 City's Parks Department could have
4 conducted a thorough vetting process.

5 Indeed, the last organization of
6 consideration by this very same
7 Franchise Concession and Review
8 Committee, the Ferry Point Links LLC
9 organization, was found to be
10 inappropriate for consideration,
11 despite Parks Department submission to
12 MOCS. In both cases, the push to
13 complete this review without proper
14 oversight can be seen as a political
15 move to oust the existing management
16 organization prior to the current
17 Mayor's exit from office.

18 This should not be allowed prior
19 to a detailed investigation of
20 Affiniti's qualifications to avoid a
21 repeat of the events that led to Ferry
22 Point Links ouster less than a month
23 ago. By all accounts, this review
24 seeks to approve a concession
25 agreement that interferes with an

1
2 existing New York City contract.

3 Unless and until proper legal
4 action removes the current management
5 organization from its existing
6 contract, approval of this hastily
7 presented, and probably elicit
8 agreement, should not be allowed.
9 There should be no rush to take action
10 that is almost assured to create
11 unnecessary taxpayer expense, which by
12 most accounts may cost the City
13 \$30 million plus legal fees, merely to
14 achieve a mayoral initiative, which
15 may very possibly be reversed or
16 disrupted long after the Mayor leaves
17 office.

18 For the reasons presented above,
19 this review process should be
20 disallowed, pending a properly
21 constructive agreement and thorough
22 vetting process.

23 Thank you. I'll take any
24 questions anybody might have.

25 THE CLERK: Thank you. We'd

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like to remind members of the public
in attendance today that a face
covering is required to be worn
properly, covering your nose and your
mouth.

THE CHAIR: Will the Clerk
please call the next person who wishes
to testify.

THE CLERK: Noel Cahill
(phonetic). Please state your name
and affiliation for the record.

MR. CAHILL: Noel Cahill. Trump
Golf Links at Ferry Point. I'm
currently the golf course
superintendent. I started my career
at Ferry Point back in 2012 when it
was still a landfill. My heart,
blood, sweat and tears went into the
property. And it's really
disheartening to see that it's just
given away without thought process
gone into it.

I mean, we've developed a great
crew from the community. I have

1
2 90 percent of my employees are Bronx
3 borough residents. And we are all
4 concerned. There's -- there's no
5 guarantee as to what's going to happen
6 in the upcoming months. And it's
7 really concerning for us.

8 I just want to voice that
9 opinion. And when we started, there
10 was no golf course. We created a
11 championship facility. It's above and
12 beyond any expectation that was -- was
13 given and now it's all going to be
14 taken away for something that's not
15 our fault, as employees. I don't know
16 how else to convey that, but it's
17 really, really disappointing. And
18 that's all I have.

19 THE CHAIR: Thank you.

20 Will the Clerk please call the
21 next person who wishes to testify.

22 THE CLERK: Al D'Angelo
23 (phonetic). Please provide your full
24 name and affiliation for the record.

25 MR. D'ANGELO: Good afternoon,

1
2 ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for
3 having me. My name is Al D'Angelo.
4 I'm the chairperson of Community Board
5 11. Also president of the Morris Park
6 Community Association.

7 As many of you may not know, the
8 Bronx is the poorest borough. It has
9 the most homeless shelters per capita
10 than any other borough. It is the
11 poorest, it is the least educated and
12 it is highest in crime. We have a few
13 areas in the Bronx that people look
14 forward to. We have Yankee Stadium,
15 Botanical Gardens, the Bronx Zoo, and
16 now we have Trump Links. That has
17 been -- it was a landfill at one
18 point. It was changed from a landfill
19 to a beautiful area in the Ferry Point
20 section of the Bronx.

21 There's a restaurant that it
22 caters to the people in the community.
23 Right under the bridge, beautiful view
24 of the bridges. Great place to eat.
25 The food is very good, and it's very

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conducive to the community.

Before any decision is made by the City of New York, they should contact the people that live within the area. That hasn't been done. And we are having this hearing now with those people that are able to come. Since it's 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon, makes it very difficult for people to come to the hearing. But know that the area is a beautiful spot, it brings money in from outside the City.

It's expensive to play at Trump Links. But it gives people a chance to come into the Bronx that wouldn't normally come into it. They could fly over it or drive around it. But now they have a chance to go into the Bronx. Some of them may even go to the restaurants in the Throgs Neck area, and it's conducive to the business of this community.

It's something that's there, it

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took a long time to make something happen in that area that was so desolate. Something there now is a part of the flower of the Bronx, and to destroy that because of political reasons is a disgrace.

So thank you very much for hearing me.

THE CHAIR: Thank you.

Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Michael Bianco (phonetic). Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MR. BIANCO: My name is Michael Bianco. I'm a ranger at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point. I'm also a Bronx resident.

Again, like said, this facility, it was -- I think like three or four people tried to get this running as a golf course. Trump came in and did -- got a five star golf course made. We have people from all over the country

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come there. I see people, I speak to people that come in and from all different parts of United States and they come just to play this course.

If someone else takes it over, it might not be the same caliber as it is now. And that's what people come to see. Come to play. Course is a different kind of course than the regular courses in New York City. And that's what brings people.

And also -- when they first opened up the golf course, the general manager and other people went to local high schools to get people to come to work to recruit people, young kids to work there as bag boys or whatever job openings they had. So this was all -- a lot of people from the Bronx are working there.

That's it. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

1
2 THE CLERK: Padrac Pershad
3 (phonetic). Please provide your full
4 name and affiliation for the record.

5 SPEAKER: Good afternoon,
6 everyone. Padrac Pershad. I'm the
7 comptroller/human resource director at
8 the Trump complex. I'm here today
9 just to let you know a little of
10 myself and the company I work for.

11 Prior to working there, I'm a
12 seasoned comptroller who is been in
13 business over 40 years. Just after
14 that, I was been unemployed for
15 three years. When I received the call
16 that I was offered a job at the golf
17 link, I was very impressed at how
18 beautiful property that is, and I
19 joined the company.

20 And during the course of the
21 time, I heard some saying about the --
22 the company will lose the contract for
23 some unknown reason. And there was a
24 big concern. I have employees coming
25 to me every day and asking me

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questions, which I cannot answer up to this day.

One thing I'll tell you as the comptroller, I look at numbers and I know numbers very well. I want to look back at the historical number of this particular company, the business, I've seen the steady growth which I'm so impressed of. And I can tell you today that with my knowledge and experience, I can tell you the -- the -- the continued growth just going to get better and better. Because I can see so much potential in that -- in that -- in that golf course there.

One of my biggest concerns is that if this golf course is to be -- to be lost, I would say, there will be so much of a loss of jobs within the community, which is my biggest concern. I have employees who will be unemployed and they got this job and come to me and they're so happy. I'm personally very happy. I don't want

1
2 to be selfish, but I will tell you a
3 lot of employees are providing for
4 their families, including myself.

5 And I do recall this particular
6 golf course many years back. I
7 personally see it firsthand. It was a
8 complete dump. My concern is if this
9 get in wrong hands, it will just get
10 backed up -- and a whole community.
11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
13 Clerk please call the next person who
14 wishes to testify.

15 THE CLERK: Gene DeFrancis.
16 Please provide your full name and
17 affiliation for the record.

18 MR. DEFRANCIS: Good afternoon,
19 everyone. My name is Gene DeFrancis.
20 I'm the founder of Allerton Merchants
21 Association which is located in the
22 Bronx. I'm also a United States
23 veteran, and also United States
24 chairman and vice commander of the
25 Bronx County American Legion. Being

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that this is a nonpartisan event, I
feel comfortable mentioning that.

I also am very comfortable
mentioning what a great partner this
organization has been to the Bronx.
And I also want to express my
frustration and disheartening at some
of the rhetoric and discrimination
that has been attached to this
organization. Some comments as, it's
too sophisticated for the Bronx. That
upsets me tremendously. Yes, the food
is not very cheap, the location is
grandioso.

I'm born and raised in the
Bronx. My family has lived there a
hundred years. We like sophistication
sometimes. We like beautiful things
sometimes. And we -- we should work
together uplifting all of our
residents up and not tearing things
down.

The men and women at Trump
Organization and golf, the golf links,

1
2 and the waterfront cafe have been very
3 good friends to us. They've provided
4 a lot of service within our community
5 events. Projects that a lot of people
6 left behind. Festivals, parades,
7 they've been there. They've even
8 assisted us when we needed golf carts
9 for the VA hospital because our
10 elderly members couldn't reach the
11 front door from the back end of the
12 parking lot.

13 We made one phone call and they
14 answered immediately, yes. And now
15 those -- those members -- and we had
16 to deal with politics to serve those
17 members with the golf carts. Which it
18 needs to stop. We need to come
19 together, we need to stop with this
20 partisanship. We need to stop with
21 the divisiveness and work together and
22 keep the Bronx beautiful because I
23 love the Bronx. I don't want to move
24 from the Bronx, and I'm not going to
25 move from the Bronx. And I want to

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work with everyone to make the Bronx a better place.

Thank you very much for your time and hope that we can work together and common sense can prevail. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Dennis Gallagher (phonetic). Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MR. GALLAGHER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Dennis Gallagher, I am head ranger at Ferry Point.

I have the sense that the cart is in front of the horse. My understanding is that our organization has a contract with the City of New York. If we have a contract with the City of New York and no court has voided that contract, what in hell are we doing here? It seems to me that a

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judge can void a contract. Not a Mayor.

So until that legal proceeding occurs, and I'm fairly confident that that legal proceeding will be resolved in our favor, why are we wasting everyone's time and energy? Because someone has a vendetta? Is this how American democracy is supposed to work? I don't think so.

And I will tell you this. I've been there seven years, from the beginning when it was first open to the public. Most of my staff has been there seven years. They love what they do, and I love seeing them in March when they come back. Because I'm an outside guy. I'm not there the whole year.

If you have a football team and you won a championship and 22-year starters were coming back, you would have the feeling that I have every March.

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I think this proceeding is
ridiculous.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
Clerk please call the next person who
wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Larry Fishelson
(phonetic). Please provide your full
name and affiliation for the record.

MR. FISHELSON: My name is Larry
Fishelson. I'm a resident of
Manhattan, and I'm a long-time avid
golfer.

And if you ever told me that the
greatest golf course I've ever played
in my life, heaven on earth, would be
in the Bronx, I would tell you no way.
But I'll tell you something, I've been
golfing my entire life. I was born in
Manhattan. Grew up in the suburbs.
Played golf. Played high school golf
and college golf. I've had the
pleasure to play golf all around the
world. And being in the City, in
Manhattan for the last many years, I

1
2 didn't play golf. To be honest with
3 you, the other City golf courses,
4 they're just not up to par.

5 So when Trump opened this
6 course, I first went out to the Bronx
7 to play golf and I couldn't believe
8 it. I couldn't believe it. It is one
9 of greatest golf courses there are on
10 the planet. Everyone I bring there to
11 play says it's one of the greatest
12 golf courses on the planet. I tell
13 people you can go ahead -- I played
14 Whistling Straits three times where
15 they just played the Ryder Cup. If
16 they wanted to, you can have the U.S.
17 Open in three weeks at this golf
18 course, it's that good. It's that
19 good.

20 The facilities here are
21 immaculate. You pull up, everybody is
22 waiting for you. You feel good. Your
23 tee time is right on time. You're not
24 playing a seven-hour round. You are
25 playing a four-hour round. It is one

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of the greatest golf courses, once
again, I've ever played.

Now let's talk about everything
else that everyone mentioned. The
food. The food is fabulous. The
restaurant is fabulous. I'm lucky
enough, if I want to join any private
club, I could. I don't. There's no
reason to. Everything here is
fabulous. And this whole proceeding,
as the gentleman just said, is
ridiculous. Over politics.

To look at names, to look at
politics over a course. As a City
resident, this is a beautiful thing
that happened and to take it away
would be awful. And if they left, I
couldn't see playing there again.
Because I've seen courses before that
were great and they bring other
management companies in and just ruin
it.

There's more to golf than just
playing golf. There's getting there,

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there's food, there's tee times,
there's course management. And once
again, greatest -- one of the greatest
golf courses is in the Bronx, New
York.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
Clerk please call the next person who
wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Brian Crowell
(phonetic). Please provide your full
name and affiliation for the record.

MR. CROWELL: Thank you very
much. My name is Brian Crowell, the
general manager at Trump Golf Links at
Ferry Point. And again, there's a
long list of things I could say,
certainly being in the golf business
for more than 30 years.

I agree with what Larry said.
We are in a very, very special golf
facility here. One of the best in the
country. And it goes without saying
that the Trump Organization turned an

1
2 eyesore just to the left of the
3 Whitestone Bridge into the number six
4 grand municipal golf facility in the
5 country. This is not our opinion.
6 This is fact based on a lot of very
7 special and smart people. So we are
8 talking about something that is known
9 to be one of the best golf courses in
10 the country.

11 The charities we support, the
12 community we support, the donations
13 that we give over and over again, help
14 a lot of people in the surrounding
15 community and beyond. I have a long
16 list of things that I want to say, but
17 at the top of this list are
18 approximately 150 employees that give
19 their heart and soul day in and day
20 out to make this a spectacular
21 experience.

22 We are proud to have this in the
23 Bronx. It is -- it is a gem, and it's
24 a treat. Having worked at private
25 facilities, we are bringing a private

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facility experience to every member of the public that wants to come and visit our property. Whether it's for dining, for golf or just to have drinks and see the beautiful view.

We are very, very fortunate. We are creating something very, very special. And year after year, the increase in business proves it. We had our comptroller up here talking about the numbers. We are on track to break all records this year. If we were doing anything wrong, why would we continue to rise and get more and more positive remarks from the public and from everywhere else?

We are doing a great job. We are proud. There are one hundred and fifty people, many of them here, that are very proud of it and their families depend on this. We are -- we are putting our heart and soul into this property and we've got a lot of people, members of the Bronx, members

1
2 of the surrounding area that are
3 planning on raising their families
4 from the income they get working for
5 Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point.

6 This is very hard for us to
7 understand. And I hope that we can
8 get some answers here fairly soon.
9 But there is no reason that we should
10 leave that property and it should be
11 given to another management company.
12 Thank you.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
14 Clerk please call the next person who
15 wishes to testify.

16 THE CLERK: Kenneth A. Caruso
17 (phonetic). Please provide your full
18 name and affiliation for the record.

19 MR. CARUSO: Madam Chairman, I'd
20 like to postpone -- I'm the attorney
21 for Trump Ferry Point. I'd like to
22 speak after all the employees, please.

23 Kenneth Caruso. I'm the
24 attorney for Trump Ferry Point in both
25 the litigation that's going on and of

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course in general with respect to this
dispute with the City.

If you would permit me to
postpone my testimony to the end, I
think that will probably be helpful to
the members.

THE CHAIR: Sure. That's fine.
Thank you.

MR. CARUSO: Thank you very
much.

THE CHAIR: Will the person
please call the next person who wishes
to testify.

THE CLERK: Ron Leiberman
(phonetic). Please provide your full
name and affiliation for the record.

MR. LEIBERMAN: Good afternoon.
My name is Ron Leiberman. And I'm an
executive vice president with the
Trump Organization. I'm here today to
provide testimony in opposition of
Parks' intent to award the Ferry Point
golf course to Affiniti Ferry Point
LLC.

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2 I have been the lead person on
3 this project for our company and I've
4 been involved with it ever since the
5 City asked us to take it over more
6 than a decade ago. At that time, the
7 site was a landfill. The project to
8 construct a golf course was
9 languishing. The contractors the City
10 selected were ripping us off, and the
11 taxpayers were paying between millions
12 and millions of dollars for the City's
13 mistakes.

14 Now, this project has been fifty
15 years in the making and still not
16 getting built. So in 2010, similar to
17 what we did at Rohlman Rink in the
18 1980s, we were asked to take over the
19 project, finish it, roll in a golf
20 course, and construct a
21 state-of-the-art clubhouse in return
22 for operating it under a 20-year
23 agreement.

24 Immediately, we got rid of the
25 contractors and finished the

1
2 construction. We grew it in
3 beautifully and opened it up to rave
4 reviews and tremendous accolades.
5 Year after year, since opening, we
6 have taken great pride thanks to the
7 staff you see in the room. And we
8 spare no expense ensuring that Ferry
9 Point continues to be recognized as
10 one of the best public golf courses in
11 the world.

12 Now, just a few years later and
13 after we've invested more than
14 \$30 million, this administration and
15 Mayor are trying to terminate our
16 contract and steal this investment
17 from us, all to settle a political
18 vendetta against the former president,
19 who is no longer working the
20 day-to-day operation of our company
21 and has not been doing so for more
22 than five years.

23 What a horrible message this
24 sends to anyone who wants to do
25 business with the City of New York.

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2 In fact, why would anyone want to
3 become a concessionaire and make a
4 capital investment if the contract can
5 be terminated without any violations.
6 And when the concessionaire has
7 operated it beautifully and complied
8 with each and every provision of that
9 contract. That's not what effective
10 government is about. And I ask each
11 of you to go there and see it for
12 yourself. Now, as we settle this
13 legal dispute for the City, Parks has
14 put together some kind of hodgepodge
15 process and it's not acceptable.

16 In closing, we believe that we
17 will prevail in court with this legal
18 fight. However, until the case is
19 resolved, we respectfully ask for the
20 benefit of New Yorkers, that the
21 Committee not proceed with any action
22 to seek to replace us until the case
23 is resolved. Until such time, New
24 Yorkers will continue to have operator
25 that is in the best in the business

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and enjoy this magnificent facility
without any interruption in service to
the public while most certainly happen
under this proposed scheme.

I'm available for any questions
now or after this. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
Clerk please call the next person who
wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: John -- I'm having
difficuly with the name. John Ser --
the construction manager --

MR. GRUBER: Yeah.

THE CLERK: Please provide your
full name and affiliation for the
record.

MR. GRUBER: Good afternoon. My
name is John Gruber. I'm the
construction manager for the Trump
Organization. I was responsible for
both building the temporary facility
and the permanent clubhouse.

I find it disheartening that the
amount of time and effort that my

1
2 staff and the contractors who are from
3 both New York, you know, did all this
4 work only to have it handed off to
5 another potential concessionaire.

6 We spent an enormous amount of
7 time making the project topnotch. We
8 went above and beyond our initial
9 financial responsibility by quite a
10 bit. I think this is a travesty that
11 the Mayor, for political reasons, is
12 trying to take this away from the
13 Trump Organization. And I don't know
14 what else to say, but it's very
15 disheartening that this is the way the
16 City is running business. And Ron
17 said that for future concessionaires
18 to have to worry about just, you know,
19 for any minor infraction, you can just
20 take away their -- their livelihood.

21 Thank you.

22 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
23 Clerk please call the next person who
24 wishes to testify.

25 THE CLERK: Ithor Verasky

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(phonetic). Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MR. VERASKY: Good afternoon. My name is Ithor Verasky. I'm one of the contractors who the -- at Ferry Point.

So I can say only that I work for the Trump Organization for like 15 years, so -- on the construction site. And it's always, like, that organization was always fair and appreciate our work and -- and everything was always, you know, great. So I guess that's it. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Daniel Sponzilli. Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MR. SPONZILLI: Hello. Good afternoon. My name is Daniel Sponzilli. I was the landscape

1
2 designer for Ferry Point. We worked
3 closely with the Parks Department at
4 that time and the Trump Organization.
5 And it was a great process. I was
6 collaborative. We spoke not only
7 about fiscal and monetary
8 responsibilities, but we really talked
9 about how it would work and how the
10 clubhouse and the surrounding
11 landscape would work within the Bronx.

12 So it was not to be
13 ostentatious. We were to plant life
14 and all of the various greeting
15 proposals that we worked with were to
16 keep Ferry Point clubhouse and the
17 facility working well with the
18 surrounding land. So we knew that
19 there was a park across the street.
20 We wanted to keep that in mind as we
21 were doing things as well. We wanted
22 to keep impervious in the parking
23 areas down as minimum as we could so
24 that the Bronx and people that were
25 visiting the golf course would

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experience a true landscape all the way through.

I've personally, on a personal note, I've worked with the Trump Organization for almost 19 years. I built and designed in various capacities with the organization from the top down. They've been excellent. I've worked personally with all members of the family and with many of the people that are here today. And it's been a wonderful experience.

We never cut corners. All of our conversations that we've had in regards to this project and many other projects, are sole collaborative from an organization to a landscape perspective that's unbelievably unique, especially in a public setting. So to have this public golf course, its amazing clubhouse, the landscapes around it which are truly part of the actual surrounding area, I think it would be a travesty if that

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was turned over to another entity that
was not local and did not understand
the people and the area around it and
the hard work that went into it.

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So I appreciate your time.

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Thank you.

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THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the

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Clerk please call the next person who
wishes to testify.

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11

THE CLERK: Al Consoli. Please

12

provide your full name and affiliation
for the record.

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MR. CONSOLI: Good afternoon.

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My name is Alfred Consoli, III. I am
the director of golf at Trump Golf
Links at Ferry Point.

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The main point I would like to

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make and try to convey to this

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Committee is that I keep hearing the

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term that makes what we do at this

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place a lot more than a golf course.

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And it's the experience.

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We've created, and the Trump

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Organization has created an

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experience. Which is why the numbers continue to increase. It's the level of service, it's the people and the professionals that are able to attract that come work for the organization.

It's the way we make people feel from the time they show up to the quality of the golf course. The impeccable conditions and the resources that are continually reinvested into the property to make sure that we always maintain the standards of the organization.

That is why it is so special to the Bronx, that is why it is special to this City. And I have -- I've been in business for 19 years. I've worked for -- this is the fourth management company I've been involved in, and I've seen what happens when corners get cut and it's more about the bottom line and how much extra dollars can we try to squeeze out of the place and what happens to the conditions. You

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will no longer have an experience.

You will just have a golf course.

Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Parn Delitis (phonetic). Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MR. DELITIS: Sorry about my handwriting there. My name is Parn Delitis. And as some other people here, I'm a paying customer. I do not work for the Trump Organization, nor have any affiliation with them. But I visit the golf course and I do play golf.

We've read so many news about the Trump Organization. They made this mistake, that mistake, whatever. I'm not here to judge. So I will tell you one thing, though. Ferry Point is not a bad decision from the Trump Organization. The Bronx -- I mean,

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I'm in Manhattan raised. But the
Borough of the Bronx, they do need
businesses that operate on a profit.
And this is one of them. There is no
reason to boycott any of this business
because this is a taxpaying revenue to
the City, the City makes money with,
and at the end of the day, everybody
comes up with a positive outcome.

As far as the golf course, I can
show you, and this is a verified data,
10,000 courses or more go bankrupt
every year because there's a lack of
real estate and the way around the
place. This is not one of them.

So a consideration must be given
to the business that actually operates
on a profit. Forget the fact that
it's a work class facility and
everything. This people making it
possible. But at the end of the day,
there is no reason to boycott or
poison a place that actually is making
money for the City. And this is not

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really an argument about the organization and everything, is an indirect -- to the people that work there. People need to work there. They're making money. Everybody is happy. And that's all I have to say.

There is no reason right now to really boycott this. Is it political, not political, it doesn't matter at this point.

Thank you so much for your time.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Mark Blazen (phonetic). Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record. Mark Blazen.

SPEAKER: This is Mark Winthrop. I'm not sure if you have my last name. That's not my last name. But I didn't hear anybody else speak up --

THE CLERK: Sorry, Mark Winthrop is the last name on the list. I'm

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going in order of the list.

So Frank Rafielli (phonetic).
Please provide your full name and
affiliation for the record.

* AUDIO *

MR. RAFIELLI: Thank you very
much. Frank Rafielli.

Thank you so much. My name is
Frank Rafielli. I'm here today as a
concerned citizen of New York City. I
worked in New York City Parks under
Parks Commissioner Henry Stern. And I
stayed active in Parks for the last
30 years, almost three decades,
through various nonprofits.

More relatively, a profit --
various New York City -- including the
Food and Beverage -- (inaudible).

I have been a part of this
committee in the past -- some of the
-- (inaudible) found egregious by New
York City Parks, City of New York.
This process in -- (inaudible) with
the golf course. Quite honestly,

1
2 extremely upsetting and -- some of
3 the -- New York City found it -- New
4 York -- (inaudible.)

5 For starters, New York City is
6 an extremely practice being able to
7 handle contracts because of personal
8 or seeming political reasons. By all
9 accounts, the operators at Ferry Point
10 golf course are doing a pretty good
11 job. Revenue is increasing.
12 Beautiful course. People enjoy it
13 and, you know, even during the --
14 they're (inaudible) doing pretty
15 amazing as well.

16 This revenue and the tens of
17 millions of dollars that this
18 organization has funded, capital
19 expenditures, has been beneficial to
20 the City of New York, and for its
21 people at a time that it really need
22 the money.

23 Let me be clear, to me there is
24 no economic or operational reason why
25 this contract could be, should be

1
2 legally terminated by the contract in
3 the Trump Organization.

4 City of New York leading on,
5 (inaudible) professional procurement,
6 as if that's the real reason. But we
7 know it's a lie. Everyone knows it's
8 a lie. The real reason this -- this
9 contract is because they hate Trump.
10 They hate Donald Trump. Has zero to
11 do with the contract, zero to do with
12 the professional part of it. It all
13 has to do with political personal
14 reason.

15 I'm wrapping up now. And I will
16 say that the second most -- hearing --
17 (inaudible) -- Parks shows a
18 negotiated concession practice. As
19 the Comptroller's office has
20 mentioned, steal bid or steal proposal
21 more typical and much more competitive
22 under the guise that they have too
23 much timeline. This is the timeline
24 that Parks created by itself by
25 terminating the contract. Does not --

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2 and -- (inaudible) -- they gave a
3 contract -- for a homeless shelter
4 operator for New York City --
5 connection and -- (inaudible). Then
6 when they called out by the press,
7 they simply changed the operators
8 name. Corrected document in the City
9 record. This is -- quite honestly a
10 joke and a scam. Everyone understands
11 it. There's -- (inaudible). It's
12 beyond --

13 I ask FCRC to please do your job
14 and come to the obvious conclusion,
15 whether you agree with his personal
16 politics or not, whether you like him
17 as a person or not, it doesn't matter.
18 He has -- his organization has a
19 contract. They're doing a pretty damn
20 good job there --

21 MR. STAMOULIS: You are out of
22 time.

23 MR. RAFIELLI: Thank you very
24 much. I appreciate it. And I can't
25 imagine anyone wanting to do business

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with the City of New York --

MR. STAMOULIS: Thank you.

MR. RAFIELLI: Thank you.

Bye-bye.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Teresa Cone (phonetic). Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MR. STAMOULIS: Hello, is Teresa still on the call? One more time, is Teresa still on the call?

(No response.)

MR. STAMOULIS: I think we can proceed with the next person. Thank you.

THE CLERK: Sylvia Sierra (phonetic). Please provide your full name and affiliation for the record.

MS. SIERRA: My name is Silvia Sierra. And I'm a maintenance supervisor at Trump Ferry Point. And I think it's very selfish what they're

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trying to do.

We are going to have 150 people without employment, and I'm scared. I'm scared for me because I take care of my mother financially and I take care of my daughter. So if I'm unemployed, I have to go on welfare, something that I do not want to do. And my mom will be suffering.

So this is how much confident I -- if y'all -- people and to myself --

(Audio interruption.)

I love working seven years, and I love being in this group, that and the same -- that give this place to somebody that does not know nothing about the Bronx, do not know nothing about the people, the community, or --

That's all I have to say.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Mark Winthrop.

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Please provide your full name and
affiliation for the record.

MR. WINTHROP: Hi. My name is
Mark Winthrop. I am a golfer. I have
no affiliation with the Trump
Organization or anybody at the hearing
for the Trump Ferry Point.

I also believe that this is an
amazing facility. I love to go golf
there, and I think importantly, my
son, who is now 17 years old, played
on the PGA Junior League, Golf League
there. It was a fabulous and
wonderful experience that was given
wholeheartedly by the entire
organization there, the employees at
the organization and it was a
wonderful, wonderful program for the
City of New York, kids coming from all
five boroughs to play.

I would also add to this that it
adds -- there's something very special
about playing there. Because, you
know, we even see foxes on the course.

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I actually had a golf ball picked up by a hawk once and flew away with it for a few yards. It's a wonderful, wonderful place.

Our experience has been absolutely topnotch, and we believe that to make any changes to this amazing place would be a shame. That's it.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify?

MR. STAMOULIS: On behalf of the Clerk, I'll be calling further remote attendees that registered.

I have next an Estay Colzas (phonetic). Can you please speak.

MR. COLZAS: Yeah. My name is Estay Colzas. I'm an attorney in New York for the last 15 years. I have been playing at Trump Ferry Point for the last -- since it opened. And I want to say that I'm a member of the public, but I don't believe we should

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be here today. Because this is caused by a Mayoral fiat, political vendetta that's created, a situation that should not be encouraged.

The matters -- it is before the court to award a contract to another facility at a time when the Trump Organization is doing a fantastic job is not appropriate. This course is good for the -- it's good for New York. It has given steps to our City. Anybody that plays the course is completely -- they have an experience that is beyond belief because it is a topnotch facility.

I echo the -- the comments that have been made earlier. And I just don't believe that if it's not broken, don't fix it. The Trump Organization is doing a fantastic job. I've played golf Trump courses all over the world. In Los Angeles, Scotland. And the Trump Organization knows how to run a golf course. We should not be here

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today.

This -- Parks --

(Audio interruption.)

-- to New York City, and I'm all
against taking it away from the Trump
Organization just because the Mayor
decided that should be done.

Thank you for my opportunity to
speak.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
Clerk please call the next person who
wishes to testify.

MR. STAMOULIS: Charles Arnold.

MR. ARNOLD: Yes. Can you hear
me?

MR. STAMOULIS: Yes, we can.

MR. ARNOLD: Hi. I'm Charles
Arnold. I'd like to thank the
Committee for allowing me brief
testimony. I'm a New York City
resident. I am a private citizen. I
have no affiliation whatsoever to the
organization currently running the
facility.

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2 I am an avid golfer. I live in
3 Manhattan, and I love to come to the
4 Bronx to play golf. I live in
5 Manhattan with my wife who is a New
6 York City schoolteacher, third grade
7 teacher in Brooklyn. I have a
8 four-year-old. I've been playing at
9 Ferry Point since the golf course
10 opened, and I'm very proud to play
11 there. Which is not to patronize
12 country clubs. Some of which exclude
13 people based on race or sexual
14 orientation or religion. Ferry Point
15 is a place where anyone, all New
16 Yorkers can come and play any time.
17 It's -- it's very well -- and it
18 competes very nicely with those
19 country clubs that I mentioned
20 earlier.

21 It's a special place. It's a
22 fantastic asset to the Bronx. It's a
23 fantastic asset for New York City.
24 It's not just any old golf course and
25 some management company from out of

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state -- I -- I -- I have a hard time
accepting that they can do as good a
job as what's being done there. I
just can't emphasize enough. It is a
real special place. Amazing place.
And it's well run.

I've been playing there since
they opened. And I think to bring
uncertainty for the employees,
hard-working New Yorkers that work
there, or just ordinary citizens like
myself that like to go there, I think
it's incorrect.

I think the legal process should
be permitted to run its course and I
think should stay --

MR. STAMOULIS: You have one
minute.

MR. ARNOLD: Okay. I don't need
the whole minute. But again, Charles
Arnold. I'm an attorney, practicing
attorney in New York. And I think the
Committee should wait for the legal
process to conclude. And I thank you

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for hearing my testimony. Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the Clerk please call the next person who wishes to testify.

MR. STAMOULIS: Brian Riley (phonetic).

MR. RILEY: My name is Brian Riley. I'm a citizen of Jersey, former New York resident. I'm a customer of the course from day one. I'm still a customer. I drive back and forth several amount of hours to play this course and eat their food.

Couple years ago, I became a vendor up there -- for a small business. They were one of my best clients. They brought a lot of money into the company.

I worked with every aspect of the golf course, from the facilities and maintenance to food and beverage, I worked with kitchen, I worked the front desk, and I worked with the accountants. Everyone was

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professional. Everyone came on time.
And they were respectful.

You know, this is not just a
standard golf course. This is a golf
course of extreme excellence. But in
the end -- just a golf course and
should not have politics --

(Inaudible.)

Thank you.

MR. STAMOULIS: Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
Clerk please call the next person who
wishes to testify.

MR. STAMOULIS: Tony Bradick
(phonetic). Tony Bradick. Are you on
the call?

MR. BRADICK: My name is Tony
Bradick. I'm a resident of New York
City. I'm an avid golfer. I played
the other public golf course the City
does have on its properties. The
Trump course is far and away. Best in
terms of its quality and challenges.
But most importantly, the way it's

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operated, and I think it's getting lost in all of this process, notwithstanding the huge due process here, is the fact that, you know, the course is what it is, management are what they are because of the people involved.

Changing the franchise impacts the City's goal of maximizing revenues, bringing this new proposal is talking about charging lower rates, not higher rates. So it doesn't achieve the City's desired goal of having maximized value of the franchise. It's bringing an inexperienced management team, which will inevitably lead to a loss of utilization and again, lower revenues.

You know, this is a project that was stillborn until Trump got involved and until the Trump Organization got involved in it. And now employs over 150 people and attracts thousands of people to play the rounds every --

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2 every week, every month through the
3 golf season. Not twice a year. This
4 will -- changing the franchise will
5 further imperil the City's reputation
6 thereafter that seeks predictability
7 in due process.

8 For the reasons presented, the
9 Committee should cease these
10 proceedings and wait on the due
11 process of the law and the court
12 system. Thank you for your time.

13 THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
14 Clerk please call the next person who
15 wishes to testify.

16 MR. STAMOULIS: Martin L
17 Johnson. Martin L. Johnson.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Yes. This is
19 Martin L. Johnson. Thank you for the
20 opportunity to speak. I'm the
21 president of the Bobby Jones Golf
22 Course Foundation.

23 Foundation is 501K3 corporation
24 that operates Bobby Jones golf course.
25 Golf course for that -- (inaudible)

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2 foundation is operating the course for
3 management Bobby Jones Link, also
4 known as Affiniti, that began in
5 October 1, 2015.

6 There's a lot of similarities
7 between Ferry Point and Bobby Jones
8 golf course. We -- we were formed in
9 2015 based on overseas renovation and
10 transformation, possibly poor
11 conditions, underlying --
12 underutilized golf course into one of
13 the best public facilities in the
14 country.

15 We had a 32 million-dollar
16 renovation that involved --
17 (inaudible) -- golf course. But also
18 a 23,000 clubhouse and restaurant and
19 center and parking. Bobby Jones has
20 been with us since the beginning.
21 Played integral role in renovation of
22 the facility, from the beginning. It
23 not only managed the operation of the
24 facility -- to the state in providing
25 critical advice for the renovation

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process.

The golf course opened in 2018
and -- (inaudible) -- not only
successful renovation, level of
service provided by our golf
professionals, instructors, food and
beverage staff, our director of golf
profession -- of the year in 2020, by
the PGA. Bobby Jones Links provides a
corporate culture with character,
integrity of Mr. Jones itself. As
well as the most successful
organization.

Bobby Jones Link Foundation
achieved, exceeds the financial
results -- they -- (inaudible) -- they
have put into place procedures they
developed over many years. And
financial business result. The point
that many of you have made, certainly
agree with, most important thing
they've done --

MR. STAMOULIS: One minute
remaining.

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2 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. The
3 key positions like general manager,
4 head professional, instructor, course
5 superintendent and executive --
6 contrary to what other folks have said
7 here, we have substantial experience
8 operating a golf course. Not just
9 in -- not just in --

10 They have high quality
11 individuals and management level and
12 they brought them to their golf
13 course. I hear everything that's been
14 said about Trump --

15 That's exactly why we have Bobby
16 Jones because of the management. One
17 of our overarching goal in the
18 business, facility, about what
19 Mr. Jones would be proud. Critical
20 support by the management of Bobby
21 Jones Link, we feel that we have
22 achieved that result.

23 If I can get a few more minutes
24 of my time. I'm also the vice
25 president of the --

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MR. STAMOULIS: I'm sorry. You
are out of time.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. STAMOULIS: Thank you for
your testimony.

THE CHAIR: Thank you. Will the
Clerk please call the next person who
wishes to testify.

THE CLERK: Kenneth A Caruso.
Please provide your full name and
affiliation for the record.

MR. CARUSO: Members of the
Committee, thank you for hearing me.
My name is Kenneth Caruso. And I'm
the attorney for Trump Ferry Point LLC
in the litigation and in this dispute
generally.

I would like to begin at the
beginning. Representative of the
comptroller's office -- and I'm sorry
I have to paraphrase because I
couldn't write it all down. This
process is rushed, done without full
transparency and terminated without a

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plan in place. How true. How very true.

I do think you should put this off. This is rushed to judgment. The Mayor rushed to judgment back in January. You should not compound that mistake by rushing to judgment now. You've heard from all these wonderful people who work very hard. I don't know anything about golf, and I've never been on a golf course until I went out to the Ferry Point Golf Course to see it in connection with this case.

What impressed me the most, all these folks, it is a labor of love for them. You can see how much they love what they do. And you can't replace that just by putting in a new operating company.

The Mayor is a laying duck. That is not an insult. That is a phrase that's used throughout common parlance in this country. You are

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being asked to make a decision that will run for 13 years, three mayoral terms. If you make a mistake, three mayoral terms are going to be bound by that mistake. Slow it down. Slow it down.

You've heard from the people in the room. But I have to be sure that you heard from someone very important who is not in the room. Jack Nicklaus. You've heard that this is a Jack Nicklaus signature course. You may or may not know that Jack Nicklaus company has veto power over any assignment of the contract that my client currently holds. We have a letter from Jack Nicklaus, which I believe was e-mailed to the Committee but perhaps not. And I would like to make that part of the record. Shall I do that now?

MR. STAMOULIS: I'll make sure --

MR. CARUSO: Yes, that's fine.

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And personally, I would like to read it into the record, if I can have Jack Nicklaus' three minutes. But I'll leave that to the end.

The point is that the City's conduct with respect to the Jack Nicklaus design company can only be described as irresponsible. The company has a veto power over the contract that you are being asked to approve. Talk about the cart before the horse, an active phrase someone else used.

You can approve this contract and then Jack Nicklaus tomorrow or next week or next month can say no. And you are back where you started. Slow it down. This is a rush to judgment. Do due diligence the right way. Talk to your contracting partner first before you take the contract away from my client.

January 6th. Let's face it, I don't like to use phrasing like

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political vendetta. Let's talk about fact. Fact of the matter is, and I hope you'll indulge me with a little more time, considering the importance of the matter. The Mayor wanted to retaliate against President Trump for January 6th. Okay, so he wanted to retaliate and he came up with this reason, that the Trump Ferry Point is no longer able to function properly. But look at the record, please --

THE CLERK: Thank you. You have now reached --

MR. CARUSO: May I have a little extra time, Madam Chairman?

THE CHAIR: Sorry. All people are limited -- all testimony is limited to three minutes. We did receive your written testimony, though, and have reviewed it. And we will review the letter that you gave to the Clerk today from Jack Nicklaus.

MR. CARUSO: Okay. Very well. Only if you note the hypocrisy in the

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City saying in 2016, we are not
interested in tournaments in the 2021,
saying, well, we can't bring in
tournaments so we are going to
terminate your contract. One of the
most hypocritical litigation positions
I've ever had the privilege to --

THE CLERK: Thank you.

THE CHAIR: Will the Clerk
please call the next person who wishes
to testify.

THE CLERK: Thank you. We have
now heard all testimony in this
calendar item.

THE CHAIR: If no one else
wishes to speak, that concludes
today's hearing. We ask that the
reporter make the entire public
hearing agenda, which was made
publicly available and distributed at
this hearing, part of the final record
of the proceeding.

The hearing is now closed.
Thank you.

(TIME NOTED: 3:55 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF NEW YORK)

:SS

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK)

I, Elbia Baires, a Notary Public within
and for the State of New York, do hereby certify:

I reported the proceedings in the
within-entitled matter, and that the within
transcript is a true record of such proceedings to
the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am not related
to any of the parties to this action by blood or
marriage; and that I am in no way interested in
the outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set
my hand this 20th day of October, 2021.


Elbia Baires

\$30 19:13 42:14 & 5:11 13year 7:19 14:9 18hole 7:15 1980s 41:18 20th 80:19 20year 41:22 22year 32:22 501k3 69:23 6th 76:24 77:8 ability 15:2 17:21 80:13 able 23:8 50:5 55:6 77:11 (4) about 13:19 16:25 26:21 35:4 37:8 38:12 43:10 45:18 47:7,9 50:22 51:11,19 53:2 59:19,20 60:24 68:12 72:14,18 74:11 76:12 77:2 (23) above 19:18 21:11 45:8 absolutely 61:7 acceptable 43:15 accepting 65:3 access 10:5 13:6 accolades 42:4 accordance 5:14 accountants 66:25	accounts 18:23 19:12 55:9 achieve 19:14 68:14 achieved 71:16 72:22 across 47:19 action 19:4,9 43:21 80:15 (4) active 54:14 76:13 actual 48:24 actually 16:21 52:18,24 61:2 (4) adams 4:12 add 60:22 additional 8:20 11:21 additionally 14:13 address 6:25 adds 60:23 adequate 15:11 administration 42:14 adverse 10:6 13:7 advertised 5:14 14:14 advice 70:25 affiliation 5:25 6:12 16:2 20:12 21:24 24:15 26:4 28:17 31:13 33:9	36:13 39:18 40:17 44:16 46:3,22 49:12 51:10,16 53:18 54:5 58:11,21 60:3,6 63:23 73:12 (27) affiniti 7:12 17:5,13,24 40:24 70:4 (6) affiniti's 17:19 18:20 after 8:23 10:15 11:24 13:16 19:16 26:13 38:9 39:22 42:5,13 44:7 (11) afternoon 3:2 21:25 23:10 26:5 28:18 31:14 40:18 44:18 46:4,24 49:14 (11) again 3:9 8:6 11:6 16:9 24:20 35:3,19 36:4,17 37:13 65:21 68:19 (12) against 6:15 14:20 17:21 42:18 63:6 77:7 (6) agency 8:10 11:10 agenda 78:20 ago 18:23 41:6 66:15 agree 36:21 57:15 71:22 agreement 7:12 8:7 9:24 11:7 12:25 14:2,6,16 18:25 19:8,21 41:23 (12) ahead 8:3 34:13	al 21:22 22:3 49:11 alexander 2:14 5:6 alexandre 2:16 alfred 49:15 allan 2:12 4:19 allerton 28:20 alleyne 2:15 allotted 5:23 allow 15:10 allowed 18:18 19:8 allowing 63:20 almost 19:10 48:6 54:15 also 6:17,22,23 10:4 13:5 14:8 16:20 22:5 24:18 25:13 28:22,23 29:4,7 60:9,22 70:3,17 72:24 (19) alternate 2:16 always 46:11,12,14 50:13 (4) am 29:4 31:16 49:15 60:5 63:22 64:2 80:14,16 (8) amazing 48:22 55:15 60:10 61:9 65:6 (5) american 28:25 32:10 amount 44:25	45:6 66:13 ancillary 7:17 angeles 62:23 announce 6:4 another 8:6 11:6 16:24 39:11 45:5 49:2 62:7 (7) answer 27:2 answered 30:14 answers 39:8 anybody 19:24 53:23 60:7 62:13 (4) anyone 5:17 42:24 43:2 57:25 64:15 (5) anything 14:19 38:14 74:11 applicants 14:17 appreciate 46:13 49:6 57:24 appropriate 62:10 approval 7:9 19:6 approve 18:24 76:12,15 approximately 5:23 37:18 are 3:3 6:7,14 10:17,19 15:16 16:19 17:4 21:2,3 23:7,8 25:20 28:3 31:24 32:7 34:9,20,24 36:22 37:7,17,22,25 38:7
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