

## STATEMENT OF NINA REZNICK

NINA REZNICK, being duly sworn, deposes and says

1. I, Nina Reznick, city resident and taxpayer, live at 28 East 10 Street New York, New York 10003. My apartment is four blocks from Washington Square Park.

2. I go to the Park and/or walk through it several times a week and, sometimes, daily. It is where I go to enjoy the energizing spirit of musicians and performers and other park-goers. It is where I go to watch the neighborhood dogs and the bird life (I'm a bird watcher who sometimes needs my bird identification books to tell me what birds I've just seen in the Park).

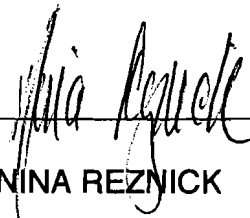
3. The trees, especially the larger and more mature ones, are imperative for the bird life. In fact, a recent article in the Scoopy Column of The Villager (Dec. 27, 2006) reports on one of the New York City red-tailed hawks spotted often in our little Park. The article is at [http://www.thevillager.com/villager\\_191/scoopysnotebook.html](http://www.thevillager.com/villager_191/scoopysnotebook.html). This article reports the Parks Department spokesperson, Warner Johnston, as saying that the Washington Square Park hawk was unlikely to be the famous Pale Male and that these birds tend to hunt within a clearly defined, and non-competing, range. The presence of a red-tailed hawk in Washington Square Park might indicate that there are several hunting ranges in New York City. A study of these ranges and the hawks' city habitats is needed if we are to understand and accommodate any unusual nature within the city.

4. I have been a licensed "citizen-tree pruner" for many years and have consistently and actively participated in the maintenance and health of New York City's street trees and ascribe great importance to them for our health and well being. They are imperative for the bird life; our oxygen; our property values; our shade and our psychological well-being.

5. One of the explicit and stated mandates of the Parks Department is the maintenance and care of the city trees. Without an overriding and demonstrably imperative reason for removing 32 well established trees from this public space, it is unconscionable that any Parks Dept. would support the cutting down of even one mature, healthy tree, much less 32. Washington Square Park has so few trees as it is. I consider their presence a huge contribution to the health and welfare of all who live near and/or use the Park and their loss an unacceptable aspect of the Parks Dept's current renovation plan.

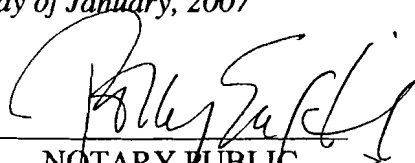
6. In addition to my other visits to the Park, I have very often found myself there for rallies and political demonstrations. One of the great aspects of life in our country is the right to protest. I have been involved since the early 1980's in many gatherings in Washington Square Park and elsewhere and have watched the effect that the sight of big numbers of gatherers has had in influencing change. Another deep concern about the Parks Dept.'s current plan is the smaller fountain area and the increased grass areas planned. We have seen that, when the Park's Dept plants more grass it then decides to restrict and forbid gatherings on that grass. The Dept has said this won't happen with Washington Square Park but I seriously doubt that it will feel less like protecting the grass there than it does in Central Park.

7. The planned changes in Washington Square Park will interfere with or end many uses to which the community has put the Park and for which there are no substitutes.

  
NINA REZNICK

Dated: New York, NY  
January 19, 2007

Sworn before me on this 19<sup>th</sup>  
day of January, 2007

  
NOTARY PUBLIC

POLLY EUSTIS  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified in New York County  
No. 31-4616154  
Term expires April 30, 2007