

Transcript of edited excerpts.
FABOZZI_ALBERT

“I’m Albert Fabozzi, an East Village resident for almost 30 years.

We fought to get the park [Tompkins Square Park] renovated, because now I faced this park, and every day I looked out, and it was prostitutes, homeless, cooking— oh, it was unbelievable. The kids from this school had nowhere to play. Never did I see kids. There were no playgrounds. I says, “You know, this is crazy.”...Well, it turns out the mayor decided, all of a sudden, that the park wasn’t going to be renovated because the community didn’t want it. Well, when I heard that, I called the people from the Democratic club, I said, “Did you hear what just happened?” I says, “Well, this is unacceptable!” We called the mayor right away. It was [David] Dinkins at the time, and we said, “Look, I don’t know who you spoke to, but we’re the community also, and nobody came and asked me,” I says, “And we want that park renovated!” I says, “This is unacceptable.” We formed a coalition, and we went out into the streets, and we picketed City Hall. We picketed the mayor’s office, Manhattan Borough President, I mean screaming and yelling with signs up. The members in my Democratic Club used to take tranquilizers, because they were afraid of the anarchists and the squatters, all these people. I used to look at them and laugh. I said, “Oh, god,” that’s what I told them. [laughs] “You’re afraid of this? This is nothing. [laughs] You don’t know what fear is.”