

# Episcopal Diocese of Western New York Resolutions submitted to the 187<sup>th</sup> Convention

## Resolution NY-A

**Originators:** Rev. Stephen Lane, St. Philip's Buffalo,  
Rev. Helen Harper, Chair of the Commission to Dismantle Racism and  
Discrimination, and Matt Lincoln, Trinity Church Delaware Ave.

**Subject:** To support the East Side Parkways Coalition

**Whereas**, the East Side Parkway Coalition (ESPC) has been tirelessly advocating for the highway removal and full restoration and reconnection of the historic Humboldt Parkway, which once beautifully connected Delaware Park and Martin Luther King Jr. Park;

**Whereas**, the current state of the Kensington Expressway has led to significant health and environmental issues for the residents of the East Side, including increased air pollution and related health problems and related chronic health problems;

**Whereas**, the expressway is a structural remnant of historic redlining practices that have perpetuated economic and social disparities in the East Side community;

**Whereas**, the removal of the expressway and the restoration of the parkway will help dismantle these structural barriers, allowing for the creation of wealth and economic opportunities for the residents throughout the East Side;

**Whereas**, the ESPC's proposed plan, "One Parkway Now!", aims to address these issues by restoring the parkway, improving community health outcomes, and revitalizing the local economy;

**Whereas**, the ESPC's efforts align with the goals of the Committee to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination of the Episcopal Diocese and other local stakeholders to create a more connected, healthy, and economically vibrant community;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that we, the undersigned, fully support the East Side Parkway Coalition in their mission to restore the Humboldt Parkway and reconnect our historic parks;

**Be it further resolved**, that we call upon local, state, and federal authorities to allocate the necessary resources and funding to support this vital project;

**Be it further resolved**, that we encourage all community members and organizations to join us in supporting the ESPC's efforts to create a healthier, more connected, and prosperous East Side;

**Be it further resolved**, that the Diocese of Western New York commit to supporting the East Side Parkway Coalition with a donation of \$5,000 to aid in their efforts.

**Rationale:**

The Humbolt expressway is a part of the systematic efforts to isolate the black community in Buffalo. While the laws have changed, the structures are still in place. The East Side of Buffalo is still isolated both physically and structurally. Restoring a park in place of the highway will have real implications on reconnecting the East Side with the rest of the city. The existing arterial roads that go through the east side are sufficient to handle the traffic that now bypasses the east side altogether.

The struggles for the Broadway Market and the Central Terminal are both a result of the traffic having been siphoned off onto the highway. What were once vibrant commercial districts, are now wastelands.

Studies have shown that the concentration of vehicular traffic onto the highway have caused high rates of health problems including the highest rates of Low Life Expectancy in the country—in the 99th percentile—for the people that live in proximity to the highway. Buffalo is one of the most segregated cities in the country. Removal of this highway would allow for real change to take place and to rectify the continuation of this injustice.