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***** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *****

Council Member Gale A. Brewer
Lauds the Start of “Summer Streets” and Car-Free Central Park:

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“Our Summer Parks are Not for Cars”

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Reacting to news that DOT’s “Summer Streets” program will include the extension of car-free hours in Central Park through the summer, Council Member Gale A. Brewer released the following statement:

On behalf of all park users seeking a car-free environment in which to walk, run, bike and blade, I congratulate the Department of Transportation and Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan for creating an (almost) car-free Central Park as part of this year’s “Summer Streets” initiative.

“Summer Streets” lets New Yorkers experience the city streets as a healthier and safer place, free of choking traffic, noise, and pollution, and a car-free Central Park has been my goal since 2006 when I introduced legislation to make it happen. I remain strongly committed to a permanent ban on cars in the park, and in 2011 I re-submitted Intro 496 to make that the law.

“Summer Streets” and an (almost) car-free Central Park are both great initiatives, and thanks to the Commissioner we can enjoy car-free loop drives north of 72nd Street from now until September 3, while kids and families are out and about and tourism is at its peak.

I urge everyone to participate in “Summer Streets” 2013, to experience the city as it could be, and to support a permanently greener, cleaner, safer New York.

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