

1       FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK

2       PUBLIC MEETING

3

4 In the Matter of:       TRANSCRIPT

5 9/11 Memorial Design       OF

6       PROCEEDINGS

7 -----

8

9 Liberty State Park

10 North Field

11 Jersey City, New Jersey

12 August 16, 2006

13 6:30 p.m.

14

15       TRACEY R. SZCZUBELEK, C.S.R.

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1 MR. PESIN: Good evening. Thank  
2 you for coming. I am looking for Frances  
3 Oakley. Is Frances Oakley here? Frances,  
4 please come up here. If everyone would stand  
5 for the pledge of allegiance and singing the  
6 Star Spangled Banner, please.

7 Be careful. Can someone help  
8 Frances up the stairs, please? Miss Frances  
9 Oakley, I don't know if she will mind I am  
10 telling you she is 98 years old. It's working.  
11 Okay.

12 MS. OAKLEY: Let's start the  
13 evening off by pledging allegiance to our flag.

14 (Whereupon, the group is lead in  
15 the flag salute and singing of The Star  
16 Spangled Banner.)

17 MS. OAKLEY: Thank you.

18 MR. PESIN: Will everybody please  
19 get seated? I'm going to speak for a couple of

20 minutes. We are asking anyone who wants to

21 speak to please go over to the table over here

22 to sign up on the speakers list. We have some

23 reserved speakers and we have an open speakers

24 list. I will speak. Then our vice president

25 Michel Cuillerier will speak second. Then we

1 are going to ask Mayor Jerramiah Healy to speak  
2 third. And then Assemblyman Lou Manzo will  
3 speak.

4           Okay. Welcome, Everybody. Thank  
5 you for coming here because of your love of  
6 Liberty State Park. Though I think most of you  
7 are here opposing the hill and walls memorial by  
8 the river, there are some people here, including  
9 victims' family representatives, who support the  
10 memorial in this location. And the New Jersey  
11 Department of Environmental Protection, Deputy  
12 Commissioner Jay Watson is here; and he will  
13 speak in a few minutes. He has come to greet  
14 you, to listen to us tonight.

15           And we ask total respect for  
16 everybody who speaks. We ask for respect for  
17 America, for victims' families and respect for  
18 what happened on September 11th. We know we  
19 will cooperate with that request.

20           We all have tremendous empathy  
21 for the victims' families, and we understand why  
22 victims' families want a memorial built as soon  
23 as possible. But park advocates owe it to  
24 Liberty State Park, to New Jersey and to America  
25 to express ourselves on this memorial for future

1 generations.

2           This is a people's public meeting  
3 in the people's park. It's not an official  
4 State public meeting because, unfortunately, the  
5 State refused to have an official public  
6 meeting. Also, the State, unfortunately, has  
7 falsely stated that there was an open process  
8 and that there were public meetings; but there  
9 were none.

10           There were open design  
11 competition orientation meetings. But when the  
12 jury picked six designs out of 320 submissions,  
13 the public was totally excluded. The jury  
14 ignored its own mandate that every design had to  
15 be integrated with Liberty State Park. So we  
16 are exercising our democratic right to get  
17 public input on a public memorial, a \$12 million  
18 project in this park.

19           Across from Ground Zero should

20 live up to the highest standards of democracy.

21 The Friends of Liberty State Park call upon the

22 Governor to do the right thing and be a wise

23 American leader and listen to park users and say

24 no to this design. Governor Corzine, please

25 take down this hill and don't allow the walls

1 here. Please listen to the people and open up  
2 the process.

3           The hill blocks sacred views  
4 toward Ground Zero, lower Manhattan and pressing  
5 river views. This massive design severely harms  
6 Liberty State Park. The hill covers over the  
7 Plaza, the park's main public gathering space  
8 that was used for concerts and festivals and for  
9 people taking in the dramatic open views.

10           For five years people have said  
11 that the best memorial to 9/11 was just looking  
12 across the river and seeing the empty skyline.  
13 People should not have to walk up or around a  
14 10-foot hill, 10-foot high and 200-feet long or  
15 walk through walls that are 30 feet high and  
16 200 feet long to see the powerful open vistas  
17 that was there before the hill and was one of  
18 the best things in the park and in America.

19           The Friends sees three main

20 options in the Governor's reopening the design

21 process. The State should either remove the

22 hill and radically revise the walls in this

23 location or the Governor should relocate this

24 design elsewhere in the park or -- or the

25 Governor should let the public comment on the

1 six finalist's designs.

2           We say, Governor, correct this  
3 huge mistake. Governor, let's find the solution  
4 that doesn't hurt Liberty State Park and doesn't  
5 hurt memories of September 11th. Now, thank you  
6 for listening.

7           Michel Cuillerier. Michel will  
8 speak briefly, one of our vice presidents. And  
9 our other vice president, please stand up, Eliza  
10 Wright. Thank you. We all -- we all love the  
11 park. Thank you. Okay. Michel. And after  
12 Michel we will have Mayor Jerramiah Healy.  
13 Michel.

14           MR. CUILLERIER: Thank you, Sam.  
15 Initially we kept our distance out of respect  
16 for the families and their quest for the  
17 memorial. But when we saw the real ground here,  
18 we started to wonder.

19           It's our freedom to express our

20 opinions on a public endeavor. We have an  
21 inalienable right to have an opportunity to  
22 express that opinion, even when it involves a  
23 project of this importance and one which will  
24 invoke the memories of those people dear to us  
25 and of our collective family.

1            Together we will stand strong  
2 against those who wish us harm. This 9/11  
3 memorial is a necessary act, wherein we can  
4 collectively share our emotions. I am not  
5 speaking against having a memorial, a memorial  
6 to our fellow Americans who perished on that  
7 day. I am speaking to the lack of an open  
8 public discussion of this particular design and  
9 its current proposed location within this park.

10           It is with great respect we ask  
11 the Governor and DEP Commissioner Lisa Jackson  
12 to take the proper actions to rectify this  
13 situation and bring the competition -- the  
14 completion decision to alter this design, to  
15 make it less of an obstruction to our park's  
16 sacred view shed and relocate this project to  
17 the north side of the Millennium Park,  
18 specifically between the Plaza and the Grove of  
19 Remembrance, at a location large enough to fit

20 these 30-foot high by 200-foot walls.

21           This is an exact of how high the  
22 walls will be. I urge the Governor and DEP to  
23 work together with us to bring the victims'  
24 families closer to a compromise in a collective  
25 agreement to our request. This might be a

1 historic moment in our lifetimes, but we must  
2 not squander the significance of this moment by  
3 ignoring the right of making a difference in  
4 this situation.

5           It is a sad situation when one  
6 cannot depend on our government to do the right  
7 thing. We, as Americans, are exercising our  
8 rights in a democratic country to ask our  
9 government to do the right thing. And shame on  
10 you. We stand for the right to speak, to  
11 protest any wrong in our free society. I'm  
12 sorry, I had two very close friends. You wish  
13 an open public hearing on this controversial  
14 issue. If we look at these two poles -- well,  
15 one pole right now -- we will see how high these  
16 walls will be. That's about all I can say.

17 Thanks.

18           MR. PESIN: We ask, actually ask  
19 that our speakers please don't take more than

20 two minutes. We ask if you want to speak,  
21 please come over to the front table here to sign  
22 up to speak. And we do now ask our Mayor of  
23 Jersey City.

24           I first want to thank Jersey City  
25 for its cooperation in providing us with a

1 podium and the speakers, the sound and the  
2 chairs, tremendous support. I thank our -- the  
3 tremendous mayor that we have for taking the  
4 stand out -- out of his love of Liberty State  
5 Park and his common sense. We thank you, Mayor  
6 Healy. We welcome you.

7           MAYOR HEALY: Thank you, Sam,  
8 Michel, Eliza and all The Friends of the Liberty  
9 State Park for putting this thing together.

10           I have written to the Governor.  
11 I have spoken with the Governor in person,  
12 Governor Corzine. I have spoken with Lisa  
13 Jackson, the head of the DEP, commissioner of  
14 the Department of Environmental Protection.  
15 They are both great friends of and great  
16 supporters of the Liberty State Park. The  
17 Governor was good enough to at least allow us to  
18 use the park for this, for this occasion.

19           And as Sam had said previously,

20 this is, quite simply, this is a mistake behind

21 us. And when you make a mistake, you should

22 say, you know, "We made a mistake. Now we are

23 going to correct it. We're going to fix it."

24 It's very simple.

25           And I don't want to blame

1 Governor Corzine. I don't want to blame  
2 Commissioner Jackson. This came from a prior  
3 administration. It was a prior Governor who  
4 made this decision. It was a prior Department  
5 of Environmental Protection commissioner that  
6 made this decision.

7           And this landed on us. I, as  
8 Mayor of Jersey City, I didn't really -- I don't  
9 recall getting any notice of this. I was down  
10 here about six weeks, probably two months ago  
11 for some -- I was just walking through the park,  
12 and I walked -- this has always been a natural  
13 attraction, a natural destination, to drive to  
14 the foot of Johnston Avenue and see what's --  
15 you know, see the Hudson River, the New York  
16 City skyline. It's just incredible what -- you  
17 know, there is not a vista like this anyplace on  
18 earth. It is, quite simply, it's unique.

19           And when I came down, I was

20 stunned. I said, "What is this?" And I thought  
21 it was something temporary. And I happened to  
22 bump into Sam Pesin. And I don't have to tell  
23 all of you folks, Sam Pesin -- Sam's dad,  
24 Morris, is actually responsible for Liberty  
25 State Park. And Sam has done a great job in

1 keeping that legacy and that vision, that dream  
2 alive, along with Mrs. Pesin, who is sitting in  
3 the first row, Morris' widow, Sam's mom.

4           And I said, "Sam, is this the  
5 thing?" He said, "No, this is going to stay  
6 here. Then they are going to put two 30-foot  
7 stainless steel -- stainless steel tablets on  
8 top of it." And I just said, "Why don't they  
9 just move it, put it someplace else?"

10           And before they go any further by  
11 putting the tablets up, they should certainly  
12 take that mound of -- that 10-foot -- I guess  
13 it's 10 foot; it looks bigger than that to me --  
14 10-foot high mound of earth behind us and put it  
15 someplace else, put it someplace else in Liberty  
16 State Park where no view is obstructed.

17           I have been taking advantage of  
18 this wonderful park for the 30 years that it's  
19 been open. As some of you know, I have four

20 children. They are all grown now, but I

21 couldn't tell you how many times I came down

22 here with my four youngsters and other kids from

23 the neighborhood and threw a football around

24 right here. And while you're playing -- playing

25 football and ball with your youngsters, you are

1 looking at that magnificent and unparalleled  
2 vista across the -- of the Hudson River and of  
3 New York.

4           And the great irony is, of  
5 course, the Trade Center was -- was a great part  
6 of that until the terrible things that occurred  
7 there by people who seek to destroy us and our  
8 way of life almost five years ago. And it's  
9 certainly apropos that a -- that time be noted,  
10 that that terrible day be remembered and that  
11 all of the victims and all of the survivors of  
12 the families, the relatives, the friends have  
13 a -- have a suitable memorial.

14           And we -- I certainly am in favor  
15 of that. I know Sam and all The Friends of the  
16 Liberty State Park are in favor of that. And I  
17 know the Governor, I know the State of New  
18 Jersey and certainly our -- our Department of  
19 Environmental Protection commissioner is in

20 favor of such a memorial. We are just asking  
21 that you take the dirt that's behind us, put it  
22 someplace else where it's not obstructing a view  
23 and let us continue to have, for my money, the  
24 best view in -- the best view in the northeast  
25 standing right behind us.

1           So thank you all for coming out.

2 Sam, we are behind you a hundred percent in this  
3 effort. We are going to work to convince our  
4 fine, our great and upstanding Governor and our  
5 great Commissioner of Environmental Protection  
6 to fix this mistake. Thank you all very much.

7 Thanks for coming out.

8           Had to get a photo op, Folks.

9           MR. PESIN: Thank you so much,  
10 Mayor Healy. Mayor's support is very important  
11 in this cause. Lou Manzo, Assemblyman, the --  
12 another tremendous supporter of Liberty State  
13 Park for many years is Assemblyman Louis Manzo.  
14 Ask Assemblyman to please come up and speak.

15           ASSEMBLYMAN MANZO: Thank you very  
16 much, Sam, Friends of Liberty State Park, Mayor  
17 Healy, Councilman Fulop and, most of all, people  
18 of Jersey City and of New Jersey who really  
19 enjoyed this park.

20 I actually first learned of this

21 reading it in The Star Ledger and reading of

22 Sam's concerns, which rightfully so.

23 Those of you who came tonight and

24 haven't been down to the park in this area of

25 the park at least can see dramatically how this

1 is going to impede a view and a vista which  
2 truly left as an empty sky, if you will, will  
3 truly honor the victims of 9/11 much better and  
4 much more gracefully than an obstruction to that  
5 vista across the harbor.

6           As a legislator for this district  
7 and, in particular, for Liberty State Park, I am  
8 taking the action of sponsoring legislation,  
9 which I have asked Speaker Joe Roberts to now  
10 fast track, which will require public hearings  
11 when anything is constructed in the State park,  
12 such as this size. We will ask in the same bill  
13 and legislation that the projects which haven't  
14 been as yet constructed would retroactively have  
15 to have a public hearing, so that the voice of  
16 the people -- it's ironic, but the voice of the  
17 people can be heard.

18           It's an ironic thing we are  
19 talking about this in Liberty State Park. But

20 we will move forward.

21           And today I have news from

22 Speaker Roberts that he is looking to put that

23 meeting together for September. And I hope

24 those of you who speak loud and clearly tonight

25 will also attend the Assembly environmental

1 hearing on that issue, so we can get that  
2 legislation done and then correctly move  
3 forward. And as Mayor Healy said, we need to  
4 persuade. And there is nothing like a crowd of  
5 good intended people to persuade the Governor  
6 and the DEP to relocate this project.

7           And it really needs -- it really  
8 needs -- they really need to come down here  
9 tonight and look at what was going to occur  
10 here. This Plaza has been a magnificent point  
11 of reflection for concerts, for enjoyment, for  
12 people from all walks of life, from all over  
13 this State for so many years. And to obstruct  
14 it with any monument, no matter how well  
15 intended that monument, would be a disaster for  
16 the concept, the original concept of Liberty  
17 State Park.

18           My final -- my final thought on  
19 this is that a monument for those who lost their

20 lives on 9/11 can be a great tribute to them

21 somewhere in this park other than here.

22 However, the voice and the input of people and

23 the democracy that our government teaches us is

24 that all sides of an issue must be heard.

25           Would only diminish any honor

1 that we hold for those people if this site was  
2 chosen in a controversy. And that would  
3 dishonor those we choose to remember and pay  
4 tribute to. And that is even more important why  
5 we must persist that the DEP, Governor Corzine  
6 pick another site, absolutely, unequivocally and  
7 that we can move on to these challenges that it  
8 seems Liberty State Park constantly faces.

9           I want to thank you again for  
10 your attendance tonight. Please, as many of you  
11 speak on this record as possible because,  
12 actually, this record is going to be made part  
13 of the Assembly record when the Environmental  
14 Committee assumes the legislation as proposed to  
15 require a public hearing and begin the actual  
16 battle to honor properly and fittingly those we  
17 lost on 9/11 in keeping the people's park just  
18 as what it is intended to be, the people's park  
19 of New Jersey. Thank you. God bless you all.

20 MR. CUILLERIER: I need to

21 introduce Hudson County Freeholder William

22 O'Dea.

23 FREEHOLDER O'DEA: Thank you. I

24 will be brief. I certainly want to echo the

25 comments of both Mayor Healy, Assemblyman Manzo,

1 I read in the paper former Mayor Bret Schundler,  
2 who stood very strongly also in opposition to  
3 this location. So I just wanted to note that.

4           I think it's important that we  
5 have these public hearings. And I think that  
6 reasonable people can get together, can discuss  
7 this and can find a fair location for this, a  
8 better location for this that's not going to  
9 take away what's been a fantastic view from the  
10 time I remember when I was a little kid to  
11 present.

12           So I'm here on behalf of the  
13 Freeholder Board to say that we support  
14 Assemblyman Manzo's initiative now to demand and  
15 have real public hearings and real public input  
16 on it and that I very strongly support the  
17 concept that -- that we definitely need a  
18 monument. We need this memorial, but we can  
19 certainly find a better location for it and one

20 that will not infringe upon what has been

21 probably, like Mayor Healy said, not only maybe

22 in the northeast, but this is maybe one of the

23 most fantastic views in the entire world. And

24 we need to continue to maintain that view.

25           So again, thank you very much.

1 And whatever -- one thing I think that the State  
2 doesn't realize, there is few things you  
3 don't -- people in the world you don't want to  
4 mess with; and one is this gentleman right here,  
5 Sam Pesin. When Sam Pesin calls in the great  
6 regard of his dad and -- and his mom, Ethel,  
7 don't -- you don't want to mess with him. In  
8 fact, I got a voice mail. I checked it; it was  
9 like 11:25 last night. I said, dang, 11:25 he  
10 is still calling the list to make sure he has  
11 the folks to come down here and speak today.

12           So Sam, as always, I'm here for  
13 you and here to work with you.

14           MR. PESIN: Thank you. Thank you.  
15 This is the people's park. And we have all been  
16 together on a lot of issues, and we will  
17 continue to stick together.

18           And right now I do have the  
19 privilege of introducing -- I'm delighted that

20 the Commissioner of the DEP did ask Deputy

21 Commissioner Jay Watson to come up and represent

22 the DEP. Came up from Trenton. And I welcome

23 Deputy Commissioner Jay Watson to speak to us

24 right now, please.

25           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WATSON: Thank

1 you so much, Sam. Good afternoon, good evening,  
2 everyone. It is really a great honor to have  
3 all of you coming out speaking about this public  
4 place. This is a public place; you are  
5 absolutely right. This is a remarkable urban  
6 open space. This is the crown jewel of our  
7 State park system, Liberty State Park. And we  
8 are very proud that we are the stewards of this  
9 great place. We would never do anything to harm  
10 this park.

11           This park receives over 5 million  
12 visitors every year, the largest visitation of  
13 any park in the entire State park system. And  
14 it deserves that type of visitation because of  
15 the kind of place it is.

16           Now, I am here to listen to you  
17 tonight, as Sam said. I want to thank Mayor  
18 Healy and speakers for their remarks. We think  
19 we have done such a great job in creating this

20 wonderful open space in Jersey City.

21 I guess everyone knows that we

22 recently did reply to Sam's request and let Sam

23 know we believe this is a great monument. And

24 we want everyone to know that we would prefer

25 that you look at the models and the prospective

1 sketches that are drawn to show what this will

2 really look like when it's done.

3           This mound -- and I know that a

4 lot of people are very passionate about this,

5 and I just ask that you hear me out for a

6 second. This will be sculpted down and will be

7 10 feet. We really believe this is a feature of

8 this park that is designed to bring people into

9 this facility. And --

10           MR. PESIN: No, please.

11           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WATSON:

12 That's okay, Sam. I understand. I understand

13 your passion.

14           MR. PESIN: We will all get a

15 chance to speak. Please show respect,

16 everybody.

17           DEPUTY COMMISSIONER WATSON: Thank

18 you very much, Sam. We do really believe that

19 this is a design that is encouraged for people

20 to get out of their cars, walk through this

21 monument, walk on top of this monument and heal

22 and properly reflect on that day.

23           Okay. I don't know what else to

24 say. I am here to listen. I do, you know, want

25 to make sure all of you understand that we do

1 appreciate being the great stewards of this  
2 incredible open space and we're hopeful that we  
3 can work something out that makes everyone  
4 happy. So thank you very much for your time.

5 MR. PESIN: Thank you, Deputy  
6 Commissioner. I'm glad he came up to listen.  
7 It's very important that he is here tonight to  
8 listen to what we have to say.

9 Dorcey Winant, one of our active  
10 members is going to introduce the next four  
11 people. We ask that they come near the podium.  
12 I do want to thank Councilman Steve Lipski and  
13 Councilman Steve Fulop for coming here to  
14 listen, to be present, to show support tonight.  
15 And Mr. Jose Arango, Chairman of the Republican  
16 Party of Hudson County. And one of the next few  
17 speakers we have coming up, Mr. Bret Schundler.  
18 And we have John Tichenor, first President of  
19 The Friends.

20           We hope you're patient. We  
21 wanted to be conservative with the chairs, so we  
22 apologize to the people standing. Hope maybe  
23 you don't even mind sitting in the grass. If  
24 you have any chairs in your cars, we ask -- and  
25 if you are sitting in a chair, perhaps you can

1 get one of your chairs from the car and give up  
2 a seat. We do have some open seats here,  
3 friends, if you want to come up and sit in the  
4 chairs. We probably have 20 seats here for  
5 people to sit down. Thank you.

6 MS. WINANT: We thank you for your  
7 patience, and we have a few people that are  
8 going to -- can everybody hear on this thing  
9 okay? All right. We really appreciate your  
10 being here, first of all, just for support for  
11 everyone being here. And if anybody wants to  
12 speak, there is a table over there. Please see  
13 Michele Dupey; and she will sign you up, for  
14 those that wish to speak.

15 Next I would like to -- I am  
16 doing double duty here for Sam because now he  
17 has to speak to a reporter; and that's  
18 important, as we all know. As well as all the  
19 newspapers here tonight, thank you all for

20 coming.

21           The next person is Lois Shaw.

22 Paging Lois Shaw. If you would like to come up

23 here, please. Lois is the sister of Tom DeGise,

24 for those that do not know. Tom could not make

25 it tonight because he is at another function.

1 And Lois asked if she could speak for him, and I

2 said most certainly. Lois Shaw.

3 MS. SHAW: Thank you very much.

4 My name is Lois Shaw. I am a former Jersey City

5 councilwoman who served with Sam Pesin's

6 illustrious father, Morris. I'm proud to say

7 that. But tonight I come to you as the sister

8 and assistant to the County Executive Tom

9 DeGise. The County Executive could not be here

10 this evening, obviously; but he asked me to

11 convey his strong displeasure of the design of

12 this monument. He joins Sam in calling for the

13 Governor to terminate this project which will

14 obstruct our New York City view. He will use

15 all in his power to influence the Governor to

16 terminate this project. Thank you.

17 MS. WINANT: I'm sorry, Sam gave

18 me names of speakers. Next to speak, John

19 Gomez. Paging John Gomez. Where are you, my

20 dear friend? John, are you -- I know you're

21 here; I saw you earlier. I know you wanted to

22 be last. Good. John Gomez is next. After that

23 is Tania Chauhan, Tim O'Connor and Colin Egan.

24 So if you just line up over here, please, that

25 would be great. My good friend, John Gomez.

1           MR. GOMEZ: You know, I was just  
2 thinking a little while ago that the best  
3 monuments into the world embrace their  
4 environments; they don't turn their backs to  
5 their environments. That's what this is going  
6 to do. The architect of this monument refuses  
7 to meet us halfway, refuses to bring down the  
8 height, to bring down that mound.

9           It's a travesty. We're not going  
10 to take it. This is Jersey City. This is our  
11 city. We want a monument that not only points  
12 toward New York but also points back here where  
13 many of the victims lived, in New Jersey. This  
14 is what is at stake here. We are going to lose  
15 not only a sacred view of the Manhattan skyline  
16 that Morris Pesin and Ted Conrad and Audrey Zapp  
17 and others fought so hard for, but we are going  
18 to lose the view of the central railroad  
19 terminal, the historic terminal.

20           We ask the Governor and other  
21 elected officials to stop this, to sit down with  
22 the architect and the victims' families and to  
23 come to a compromise. Sam Pesin talked about  
24 moving it further south. We are not saying get  
25 rid of the monument. We need the monument. But

1 put it someplace else or change it so that it  
2 doesn't hurt the environment where it's supposed  
3 to be. Thank you.

4 MS. WINANT: Before I announce the  
5 next speaker coming up here, I was just told by  
6 Tim O'Connor, who will be the speaker after  
7 this, there is water and ice at the information  
8 booth, if any of you get thirsty. And I am sure  
9 it's quite a beautiful evening but pretty warm  
10 until the sun goes down. So without further  
11 ado, we have a lady with a baby. Let me  
12 introduce Tania Chauhan.

13 MS. CHAUHAN: Good evening. My  
14 name is Tania Chauhan. And when I first saw  
15 this hill and found out from Sam it was part of  
16 the planned 9/11 memorial, this plan location in  
17 Liberty State Park, I was greatly disturbed. So  
18 disturbed that I wrote to the DEP Commissioner  
19 Lisa Jackson and started to talk to friends and

20 neighbors why this had been allowed and what

21 could be done.

22 I am a September 11th survivor.

23 I am a frequent user of Liberty State Park and a

24 Jersey City resident. My feeling upon seeing

25 the hill was one of loss. First the Twin Towers

1 and so many friends were taken away, and now the  
2 great view of downtown New York is being taken  
3 away.

4           Yes, I read the original articles  
5 regarding the planned memorials, I looked at the  
6 schematics; but I had no indication there would  
7 be a hill and two mammoth walls blocking the  
8 magnificent view as part of the memorial. My  
9 memory of the description was that the memorial  
10 was supposed to highlight the view and integrate  
11 itself with the park.

12           Make no mistake, I was working in  
13 the World Trade Center on September 11th. I  
14 have coworkers and friends who died that day,  
15 and I respect their memories and those of their  
16 families and those of all of us who survived  
17 that horrible day.

18           I also love Liberty State Park.  
19 I love its openness and its views of New York

20 City. I love to come to the park and play with  
21 my older daughter here in the north field. My  
22 daughter used to come down in the evenings to  
23 ask for picnics here. It was easy to come set  
24 up on the lawn and enjoy the view. Now the  
25 empty sky is walled in with only the back of a

1 hill to look at.

2           Liberty State Park is an  
3 important part of Jersey City and New Jersey as  
4 a whole. It draws visitors from around the  
5 world for its amazing views and overall beauty.

6 The planned memorial destroys these views.

7           Now, if I can take just a moment  
8 to speak frankly as a survivor of  
9 September 11th. That is a day I will never  
10 forget. I doubt any of us will. I have come to  
11 the park to relax and enjoy the fresh air.  
12 Sometimes I would look across the water and  
13 remember Francisco Lorian and so many others  
14 that were lost.

15           I would think of their smiles and  
16 their encouragement on my days of work. I would  
17 think of Francisco's little girl who was born  
18 after he died and of Andre's father, who I  
19 didn't know but who depended on him. I could

20 take a moment out of my play and privately

21 reflect on these people and what had happened

22 without disturbing my daughter, as I still do

23 when I walk down and pass the Grove of

24 Remembrance.

25           This monument forces me to break

1 from my play and walk up or around the hill to  
2 see the calming waters and mesmerizing skyline.  
3 It memorializes that day, the day I saw people  
4 fall through the sky and nearly suffocate under  
5 dust. I did not see the pictures on TV or in a  
6 magazine. I heard screams, gasps for breath and  
7 frantic demand to bring water to a woman because  
8 the police officers could not get the dust out  
9 of her mouth to let the air in.

10           With all respect to the victims'  
11 families, I don't want those images rushing into  
12 my head each afternoon, every time I come to the  
13 park. They are not going to go away. I am not  
14 going to forget your loved ones or anyone else  
15 who was there that day; but I would like to come  
16 to the park and, in some places, simply enjoy.  
17 And this is the entrance to the park. It is  
18 time for the Governor to consider the voices of  
19 all in the decision of this memorial.

20 Sam, thank you for allowing the

21 public to finally voice their opinions.

22 MS. WINANT: That's a hard act to

23 follow, I got to tell you that. God bless her.

24 God bless America. The next speaker -- I have

25 to compose myself here. The next speaker we

1 have is the commodore of the yacht club here in  
2 Liberty State Park. And I apologize; I said,  
3 "Tim O'Connor." I did not mean that. I am so  
4 very sorry, Jim O'Connor. Thank you.

5           MR. O'CONNOR: Good evening,  
6 Everybody. I would like to reiterate, in no way  
7 are we trying to detract from the importance of  
8 a memorial and all it stands for. But I would  
9 like to say that Sam was instrumental in  
10 founding the Grove of Remembrance on April 25th  
11 of 2003. We are here today to propose a revisit  
12 to its location and potentially a redesign.

13           Specifically as Commodore of  
14 Liberty Yacht Club located within Liberty State  
15 Park, I represent a club of close to 200 boaters  
16 that use the park and marina on a daily basis.  
17 We use the park, and we also use the park by  
18 surrounding waters because we are boaters.

19           I would like to comment on the

20 memorial design and its location, not its

21 purpose. And these comments are based on my

22 background and -- and being part of a nonprofit

23 organization that's been in this park for nine

24 years. Liberty Yacht Club is an up-and-coming

25 club.

1           We have been working with The  
2 Friends of Liberty State Park, the park rangers,  
3 the park maintenance personnel to better Liberty  
4 State Park, to promote what Sam's father  
5 promoted here, which was green space. And over  
6 the past several years we built harmonious  
7 relationship between the park, the yacht club  
8 and The Friends of the State Park. And the  
9 people actually come here to visit every day  
10 because the reason we worked so hard is so we  
11 have this.

12           This monument does not connect  
13 New Jersey and -- and the people and the people  
14 that suffered from 9/11 to New York. It builds  
15 a wall between us. It will create an  
16 environment -- according to the architect, it  
17 will create an environment that will generate  
18 reflective light that will shine at the entrance  
19 over here from the buildings and in between

20 the -- in between the walls with the -- with the  
21 visitors and the viewers coming in and create a  
22 harmonious relationship or an environment that  
23 is peaceful.

24           Well, the first part of the  
25 design is the entrance to this memorial is the

1 busiest corner of the park, where every person  
2 that comes in this park that wants to see the  
3 history of New Jersey and New York and railroad  
4 terminal and Ellis Island and Liberty State  
5 Park. So it's not going to be vigilant, it's  
6 not going to be for the people, it's not going  
7 to be a monument. It's in the wrong place at  
8 the wrong time.

9           On the outside of these two  
10 walls, picture right now, this time of day --  
11 and this will happen all day, but just picture  
12 this time of day on the exterior of these two  
13 walls on this hill. You will have at least  
14 20 feet tall of marine grade stainless steel,  
15 200 feet long, 20 feet high. You will have it  
16 on this side. You will have it on the water  
17 side.

18           So this time of night the view  
19 that's supposed to connect us -- and I have to

20 put my notes away for a minute. I brought a  
21 piece of marine grade stainless steel with me.  
22 I want you to picture this 20 feet tall,  
23 200 feet long. At nighttime, you are in this  
24 park, you are here to visit at night, you are on  
25 the other side coming in on a commuter ferry, so

1 your view, depending on the time of day, is  
2 going to be completely blocked. And if you  
3 don't believe me, give me 30 seconds here.  
4       Does everybody see this? This is  
5 one piece. This is not highly polished  
6 stainless; this is somewhat scratched. 20 feet  
7 by 200 feet. You will not see New York anymore.  
8 You will have to get the best sunglasses that  
9 are available. And all you are going to see is  
10 glare. And this is not an appropriate design  
11 for the view that we're -- they're taking our  
12 view away.

13       There is another issue with the  
14 design. As a mariner, the winds here are  
15 predominantly out of the northwest. So this  
16 time of the year the winds are from this  
17 direction. Well, the winds are going to hit  
18 this monument at 90 degrees, which means in the  
19 heat of the summer -- and it gets pretty hot

20 here between spring and fall -- you are going to

21 ask people to walk in between 16 feet of space

22 to be -- to calm themselves, to get over the

23 tragedy that happened and you are going to bake

24 them in an oven.

25           Don't -- please don't laugh

1 because this is -- this is not a laughing  
2 matter. It was an oversight of an engineering  
3 design flaw that's never even been looked at.  
4 The last thing we would want to happen is  
5 somebody going to see a loved one that passed  
6 away and look at their name on the wall and they  
7 suffer from heat exhaustion and die themselves  
8 in a memorial.

9           There is nothing in the design to  
10 accomplish that -- that in and of itself from an  
11 insurance standpoint, lawsuit standpoint is  
12 incomprehensible, how this even skipped the  
13 architects' and engineers' comprehension.  
14 Because they do not understand where they put  
15 this in its location.

16           The mood of this park when we  
17 drive down this road is to remember that we --  
18 as Americans and as foreign visitors, what made  
19 this country so great. This railroad terminal

20 brought most of our relatives and friends and --

21 and past families to our destinations, which

22 ultimately we are who we are because of that.

23 Every time that someone drives down here to see

24 where they came from they do not need to be

25 reminded of what changed our lives one day

1 because of some mass murderers.

2           And I'm not saying that this

3 memorial does not need to be in this park. I

4 think it needs to be in another location.

5 Because coming into this park, going to Ellis

6 Island and Statue of Liberty and the -- and the

7 historic railroad terminal is to signify our

8 history; and we do not need one tragic event

9 signifying every day of our lives.

10           We couldn't come here and enjoy

11 ourselves anymore with this monument here. We

12 know what was here. We are New Jersey. We saw

13 it. We lived it. We know a hole is in the sky.

14 We were here. We do not need a memorial in this

15 location to remind us of that. And I do -- we

16 do have recommendations for alternate location

17 in the park. The Governor needs to recognize

18 that.

19           We want the State of New Jersey

20 to understand all the issues and recognize our

21 concerns and immediately stop this construction.

22 We want always to see New York and where this

23 tragedy happened and not block the view that was

24 taken from us and not build a wall between us.

25 Thank you very much, and God bless.

1 MS. WINANT: The next speakers, I  
2 would like to have them line up because -- Colin  
3 Egan is next. I see him over there. Colin is  
4 working and has been for a long, long time with  
5 the Loews theater, as everyone calls it here,  
6 The Loews.

7 I would like to tell the others  
8 to line up next, please, just so they know they  
9 will be the next available person. Jean Ward  
10 was with the International Cultural Exchange.  
11 Steve Lipski, Councilman. And our past Mayor  
12 Bret Schundler. And John Tichenor, another good  
13 friend of mine. Line up and be ready to speak.  
14 Thank you. And keep it limited to two minutes,  
15 please, or thereabouts. Thank you.

16 MR. EGAN: In the months and years  
17 since September 11th, 2001 I have not  
18 infrequently found myself here looking out  
19 across the water to the skyline. Of course,

20 that was before they put this earth mound here  
21 behind me. And when I would look out, I would  
22 feel the same feeling of awe and wonder and  
23 inspiration that I have known since I was a  
24 child. But I have also felt sadness, and I have  
25 thought about the people we lost and especially

1 the two friends of mine who died on that awful  
2 day.

3           And I haven't been alone. I have  
4 looked around and seen other visitors to this  
5 park, some of them commenting to themselves  
6 about their memories of September 11th. And I  
7 say this to make my meaning here today very  
8 clear. Because I'm not saying and nor do I  
9 think anyone in this park here is saying that we  
10 don't want or there should not be a memorial to  
11 those we lost on 9/11 in this park. Quite the  
12 contrary.

13           But what I am saying is this,  
14 without any other words to varnish it or make it  
15 better, this is a bad design. And I have to  
16 disrespect -- disagree, with all due respect,  
17 Commissioner. This does not integrate itself at  
18 all into this space, into this park.

19           John Gomez touched on this. The

20 problem with this monument is it stands apart  
21 from, it does not keep faith with its context  
22 either geographical or historical. Those of us  
23 who grew up in Hudson County and who are 40  
24 years old or more remember being cut off from  
25 the waterfront. We might as well have been an

1 inland city, Jersey City. And frankly, all the  
2 people of New Jersey could not enjoy this view.

3 It was all cut off to us.

4           The opening of Liberty Park,  
5 which, by the way, as has been said here, was  
6 the creation not, frankly, of great State  
7 planners, but of Morris Pesin, Ted Conrad and  
8 other -- other visionaries.

9           I remember when this park opened  
10 30 years ago. And it was as if there was a  
11 re-taking or new beginning. The waterfront,  
12 this great vista, which I think it's been called  
13 today the greatest man-made vista on earth, was  
14 ours finally. And it made you realize the  
15 almost spiritual nature of it, to come here, to  
16 contemplate it, to think your thoughts, to be  
17 alone or with friends, to concentrate on it or  
18 just enjoy it as a background for picnic or  
19 walk. It was ours. It was all of ours. It was

20 the people's. This monument does violence to

21 that; and therefore, it is no monument to the

22 people we lost.

23           And I have to point out, very

24 unfortunately, the terrorists who took the World

25 Trade Center down, they understood the symbolic

1 importance of that skyline too. That's why they  
2 attacked it. And now to block it, in a way, in  
3 an effort to honor their victims, that just does  
4 not follow logically, I'm sorry.

5           But the worst thing about this  
6 monument is the way its planning was handled.  
7 The people who died on September 11th are, as  
8 many -- as much as any other people who have  
9 ever lived, martyrs to the idea of democracy in  
10 an open society. This design was discussed,  
11 planned and picked and put forward in exactly  
12 the opposite. Not open meetings, not hearings,  
13 not public input. And that process, itself,  
14 that is an insult to those who died.

15           There is no disrespect here to  
16 the families who lost their lives, as much as  
17 the lives of the people who were lost, because  
18 when you lose a loved one, your life is done or  
19 at least radically changed. But they should not

20 have been put in this position by the State.

21 Their role, the only thing they can be expected

22 to do is concentrate on their loss. It is our

23 role, the greater society, to make sure a

24 monument is placed in this park that will hold

25 honor and tribute to those who lost for

1 generations and centuries to come. And this  
2 monument does not do that. I urge we change it.  
3 Thank you.

4 MS. WINANT: All right I just got  
5 a bulletin for the last bunch. Sam is giving me  
6 these names, so they can line up. Next, before  
7 that, I would like to announce Jean Ward will be  
8 speaking next, as you know, who is with the  
9 International Cultural Exchange.

10 The next bunch after that is  
11 Steve Lipski, Bret Schundler, John Tichenor that  
12 I mentioned before, Greg Remaud, who is with the  
13 New York New Jersey Baykeeper, Bill Kadish, who  
14 is a good friends of mine with The Friends of  
15 Liberty State Park, Alan Bardack, real estate  
16 guy, where are you, Michele Dupey, very dear  
17 friend of mine who has been through many, many  
18 things here in the park and Dr. Ethel Lawner,  
19 lovely woman. So be aware that you will be

20 coming up next. Jean.

21 MS. WARD: In 1985 we were all

22 here at Liberty State Park. When we looked

23 to -- and this is what the New Jersey State

24 Tourism Board did. It says, "New Jersey USA."

25 There is a trilogy here. It's a historic

1 trilogy. It starts here and goes to Ellis

2 Island and it goes to the Statue of Liberty. It

3 is not empty skies. It's spacious skies of our

4 park and of America. Our people from all over

5 the world come here to see it, to be inspired,

6 to have hope and future for our young people.

7 I had other things prepared. I

8 have written to the Governor. I have written to

9 the press and other people. But I would like

10 very much to rebuttal to the Deputy Commissioner

11 of New Jersey Environmental Protection. First

12 of all, it is environmental protection; it is

13 not environmental destruction.

14 Secondly, sir, I have never met

15 the current commissioner of environmental

16 protection; but I have worked with others

17 before. In fact, for 25 years when I took them

18 to the United Nations, when we had young people

19 from around the world to discuss the

20 environment.

21 I had -- Bret Schundler came in

22 1994 when I brought two-and-a-half tons of

23 Berlin Wall. When Massachusetts didn't want it,

24 I said, "I want that for New Jersey"; and we got

25 it. And there was a two-year tour of that wall.

1 And it was here. And it was under Bret  
2 Schundler's administration. And I am not  
3 political, but it was so moving when we had the  
4 ambassador from Germany and our ambassador from  
5 Washington who sponsored this was sitting in the  
6 first event we had when that glass door was open  
7 and our lady was sitting in the harbor and there  
8 was two-and-a-half tons of this repressive wall.

9           Little did I think I had to come  
10 down to my beloved park and see a 30-foot mound  
11 of dirt, which the State says is going to be  
12 squished only to 10 feet. Only to 10 feet.  
13 Then they are going to put 30 feet high two  
14 walls that will divide and disenfranchise the  
15 people that come to this park. And it not does  
16 ever honor the fallen people that we knew and  
17 loved in 9/11.

18           So Commissioner, for that and the  
19 remark that your boss said when talking about

20 that the architecture may somewhat block the  
21 views, why there is a mile long wall somewhere  
22 else in the park and the people can go there and  
23 look there, that's not our government. The last  
24 time I read the Constitution, it's by the people  
25 and for the people. And we don't need to be

1 squashed by our people. They are the servants  
2 of our people and we trust them to govern us and  
3 trust when they take the oath of office. They  
4 have to understand what they have here. It's a  
5 treasure.

6           And I speak from my heart. And I  
7 don't need any notes to say, Governor Corzine,  
8 tear it down, this mound. And tear down the  
9 walls that are going to be built. We don't need  
10 them.

11           MS. WINANT: Interestingly, my  
12 husband, who could not be here tonight, is also  
13 a big advocate of this park; and he is a  
14 committeeman for our district. And he said the  
15 same thing. And apparently, everybody has the  
16 same idea. Governor Corzine, tear down these  
17 walls and this mound. That is exactly what he  
18 said too. Way to go, Jean.

19           Councilman Lipski, who promised

20 he is only going to speak one to two minutes.

21 Steve.

22 COUNCILMAN LIPSKI: Thank you,

23 Jean Ward. She is outstanding. She is a

24 neighbor. She lives four doors down the hall

25 from me, 201, St. Johns Apartments.

1           Let me get right to the point is  
2 that approximately 30 or so years ago I used to  
3 come down here with Father Tom Olson to hear  
4 Senator Callan, to hear Audrey Zapp, to hear Ted  
5 Conrad, to hear Morris Pesin, Ethel Pesin. I  
6 was about 12 years old, and I didn't really  
7 understand the importance of open space and the  
8 parkland then. But this group of people managed  
9 to preserve the sacred space here in Jersey City  
10 as a State -- as a State park.

11           And then fast forward, I remember  
12 being elected official and getting a call from  
13 Sam Pesin -- he is not there -- and saying join  
14 in on the fight against privatizing part of this  
15 park to be used for a golf course. And so we  
16 are reminded again today that freedom is not  
17 free and that we have to fight as the people for  
18 what we want.

19           We here in Jersey City are not

20 afraid to use brick and mortar. We can see it

21 right here. We have the largest building in the

22 State of New Jersey. But this place here on

23 Tuesday, 9/11, served as a triage center. It

24 served to take people from New York and bring

25 them in, so we can administer to them.

1           And we, the people of Jersey City  
2 and the people from the State of New Jersey,  
3 looked terror and looked horror in the face  
4 then; and we are not afraid to look across to be  
5 reminded today. As Jim O'Connor said, we don't  
6 need a block; we need a bridge to bridge the  
7 past with the future and to never forget those  
8 whom we lost.

9           And so to paraphrase Ronald  
10 Reagan's remarks to then Minister Mikhail  
11 Gorbachev, as well as Dorcey Winant and Jean  
12 Ward, Governor Corzine, Commissioner Watson,  
13 take down this pile.

14           MS. WINANT: Well, I see we have a  
15 running theme here. Okay. Good. Keep it up.  
16 Keep it up. All right. Next I would like to  
17 announce Bret Schundler, who is our former  
18 mayor. And please welcome Bret Schundler.

19           MR. SCHUNDLER: Thank you,

20 Everyone. I would like to ask you each to think

21 of someone you know who was lost that day on

22 9/11. I think all of us know probably more than

23 one person. Most of us know several.

24           The person I knew best, when I

25 had been -- before I was mayor, when I had been

1 the President of the Van Vorst Park Association,  
2 he was our secretary treasurer. He lived just  
3 across the street from me on Montgomery Street.  
4 His name was John Schnissel. And whenever I  
5 come down here or down by Exchange Place and I  
6 look across, invariably I think about John.

7           And I think almost all of you  
8 probably have that same experience. You can't  
9 come down here and not think about somebody that  
10 you know who is a friend of yours and who  
11 suddenly was ripped out of your life. What I  
12 like to do when I'm thinking about John is I  
13 just like to be quiet. And I would like all of  
14 us just to be quiet for a moment and bring back  
15 to life for a moment those we loved who were  
16 taken out of our lives. I think that's the way  
17 that we can remember people.

18           (Whereupon, a moment of silence is  
19   observed.)

20 MR. SCHUNDLER: When you have an  
21 opportunity for it to be quiet and you can  
22 concentrate your mind and you can bring them  
23 back for a moment and see their face and then,  
24 when you look out and you can see that the World  
25 Trade Center is missing and you know that

1 they're missing too, and it brings back that

2 sense of loss.

3           And when we're talking about a

4 memorial, what are we talking about? We're

5 talking about something that helps us remember

6 what happened that day, remember the people we

7 cared about and remember how wrong it was. The

8 terrorists did that to us all. But that is best

9 done in silence, where we can quiet our minds

10 and think about them and think about those

11 happenings. And that will never happen here.

12           As was mentioned earlier, they

13 built this mound right next to the main

14 entrance, where the tour busses led people off

15 who were going to the ferries so they can go to

16 Ellis Island, to the Statue of Liberty. This is

17 a place where we've had carnivals before. We've

18 had cultural festivals and concerts. It's a

19 place that is naturally lively and vibrant and

20 loud. That's where it should be a place of joy

21 and celebration. It's not a place where you can

22 find silence and quiet during the middle of the

23 day when people are out there visiting the

24 national monuments.

25           This will never serve as the kind

1 of memorial that we should have for those who  
2 were taken from us. It does them a disservice.  
3 John Gomez talked about how a proper memorial  
4 is, takes into account its surroundings.

5           Think about the Vietnam Veterans  
6 Memorial in Washington, D.C., which is in the  
7 Mall; but it's sunken. And the result is it  
8 isolates the viewer from what's going on about  
9 them, so they do have a moment to reflect in  
10 quiet and in solitude and to look at that wall  
11 and to think about what we lost. And so the  
12 monument succeeds in its mission of helping us  
13 remember those who gave their lives in that  
14 conflict. This memorial will never let us have  
15 that sense with the people who were taken out of  
16 our lives.

17           And Jim talked about how those  
18 stainless steel walls will be like a giant  
19 convection oven during the summer. And someone

20 standing there just trying to read the names,

21 they will have to leave because they just won't

22 be able to bear the heat. How does that bring

23 honor to the people who lost their lives?

24           Every one of us who feel

25 powerfully about this park, who love this

1 festival space and what it brought us, who loved  
2 this view, we all feel we're losing something.  
3 But on top of that, all of this is being done in  
4 a way that, rather than allowing us to better  
5 remember those we lost, will not even provide us  
6 that opportunity. Its fundamental purpose, the  
7 fundamental goal of the designer, this fails at  
8 that goal; and we will never meet it.

9           It has been said we have to bring  
10 Governor Corzine here. He has to stand in this  
11 place and look at this. There is no way that  
12 any thinking person can be here cannot  
13 understand that.

14           The architect, as was mentioned,  
15 was from New York. It's great to sit in a tour  
16 and design something. When you're way up there  
17 in the 40th floor and you say, "Well, that's  
18 only going to be 40 feet high. I can see over  
19 that." But when you are here at ground level,

20 where the people are, when you understand the

21 context, then you know that not only are we

22 losing something, but it's failing at its

23 fundamental mission of allowing us to

24 memorialize people who were taken from us.

25           There is nothing positive about

1 this design. It should be redone. It should be  
2 situated elsewhere. It should not be a place  
3 where when you go inside there you bake. It  
4 should not be made out of a material that blinds  
5 those that enter the park through glare. And it  
6 should not be 40 feet high, block views that are  
7 sacred, not just for us but Americans all over  
8 the country.

9           When they come to New York City,  
10 many of them, they come to this park first so  
11 they can re-experience that same awe that every  
12 single one of us did when we came into this park  
13 and we first saw that view and we drove east on  
14 Audrey Zapp Drive and experienced that  
15 incredible transcendent experience of seeing New  
16 York in that horizon, just feeling glad to be  
17 Americans. We should not let that be taken away  
18 from every American. Thank you very much.

19           MS. WINANT: Thank you. Mr. John

20 Tichenor, past president of LSP and a dear

21 friend of all of us. John.

22           MR. TICHENOR: I would like to say

23 to Assistant Commissioner Watson, your

24 predecessors spent almost a million dollars

25 putting little wooden blocks in front of the

1 terminal. They spent several million dollars on  
2 heating and air conditioning. They spent over a  
3 million dollars on the roof. We have spent  
4 millions of dollars on this building so it would  
5 be a destination for people to come from all  
6 around the State of New Jersey as part of what  
7 this lady explained before is the Ellis Island  
8 and the train station and the Statue of Liberty.  
9 And now, very foolishly, we are going to build a  
10 200-foot wall 16 feet high.

11           My friend Vernon put up these --  
12 these posts over here. They're 30 feet high.  
13 They are 16 feet apart. And they will be two  
14 thirds as long as this green fence. They will  
15 be two walls, and they will go right across  
16 where that machine is. They will go right  
17 across there, and they will block everybody's  
18 view. How sad, how foolish is the State of New  
19 Jersey to want to do this to us?

20           On that day and 9/11 I was on my  
21 way into -- into the World Trade Center. And my  
22 wife and I, we live over on Garfield Avenue.  
23 And just the moment that the first plane hit, we  
24 saw it. And I said to my wife, "I'm not going  
25 into the city. I'm going down to the park."

1           And I came here because this is  
2 the greatest view of New York City. And I came  
3 right here to this Plaza. And there were, I  
4 would say, 50, maybe a hundred people getting  
5 out of busses getting ready to go out and -- and  
6 look. And as I stood there, a lady pointed up;  
7 and she said, "Look, here comes another one."  
8 And it was the United plane, and it went right  
9 into that building.

10           I'm lucky; my son, who was in the  
11 building, he is alive, he made it out. Okay.  
12 But we don't need this memorial here. It's  
13 wonderful to have the memorial, but don't --  
14 don't take anything away from us, like this  
15 wonderful building and these wonderful views  
16 that we have. I think that was less than a  
17 minute, wasn't it, Sam? Thank you very much.  
18 Please write the Governor.

19           MS. WINANT: John, don't hold

20 yourself back, John. Way to go. Next is

21 another good friend of mine, Greg Remaud. Greg

22 is with the New York New Jersey Baykeeper.

23 Mr. Remaud.

24 MR. REMAUD: Good evening. I know

25 nobody wants to be here for the reason that

1 we're here today. I'm going to take it down a  
2 notch. I share John and everybody else's  
3 passion. I do want to add a little bit of  
4 context. I am with Baykeeper, but I was  
5 President of Liberty State Park Conservancy for  
6 seven years. And I am part of the park's  
7 Interdisciplinary Planning Committee.

8           There is one thing I think it's  
9 important for everybody to know how we got here.  
10 And it was a bad process. It wasn't -- it  
11 wasn't malicious. It was just a process that  
12 didn't take in what The Friends and what Sam  
13 have said all along, making sure that public  
14 input was there early and often. And we  
15 wouldn't have been here, if it wasn't for that.

16           But I should say what's important  
17 to note is that Sam wanted to be on the  
18 committee early on. The past administration --  
19 and it was the past administration, not Governor

20 Corzine, who said no, we have a committee and

21 it's mostly architects and artists. Sam wanted

22 to be on it. Audrey Zapp asked if Dorcey Winant

23 could be on it, just someone to keep an eye out.

24 They weren't allowed on it.

25           And Sam started to ask questions,

1 as other people did. I'm guilty of saying, you  
2 know what, we have architects. They know what  
3 they're doing. We told them one thing. The one  
4 thing we asked for is please don't block the  
5 view. And who could imagine that you would do  
6 that? Here we are. The process didn't allow  
7 for that input.

8           And I should say one other thing  
9 that's important. The 9/11 families -- I don't  
10 know if we've talked about that here today --  
11 they didn't know. They went through a year-long  
12 process thinking that they were doing all the  
13 right things. So that's why it's a little bit  
14 tough on everybody. It's not just as simple as  
15 good idea, bad idea. These folks had gone  
16 through a lot. They didn't know. It was a  
17 terrible process. It was flawed. That's why  
18 we're here.

19           With that said -- and I don't

20 blame anyone, except there is one finger I am

21 going to point. And that is at the architect.

22 And the reason I say that about Frederic

23 Schwartz is he had a chance to put an end to

24 this early on. We had a meeting. Most people

25 agreed there was an opportunity to down-scale

1 this. Everybody was working together. And  
2 Mr. Schwartz said he knew the park and this  
3 stretch here was the same as any other stretch  
4 of the park, which, by definition, showed that  
5 he didn't understand the park.

6           He didn't understand that those  
7 flower beds on that side were planted by  
8 volunteers. The park didn't have money. And  
9 when they saw volunteers parking -- planting  
10 those flower beds in the park, people  
11 spontaneously came off the ferries, people of  
12 all nationalities, handed money over to The  
13 Friends and The Conservancy, asked, "Can we  
14 plant a flower there?" That's part of the  
15 history of this park, and it's just as important  
16 as anything else.

17           The concerts that have been so  
18 popular and part the culture. The fact  
19 everybody walking down here. So this stretch

20 isn't the same as every other stretch of the

21 park.

22           It's an unfortunate situation

23 that we're in. What the people here are saying

24 is absolutely right. Need to rectify it. Not

25 too late. There are several options. One is

1 putting it near the Grove of Remembrance, which  
2 is a wonderful job of remembering 9/11 in an  
3 appropriate way, in a Liberty State Park way.

4           Possibility of scaling this down,  
5 which, for some reason, the architect -- that's  
6 my opinion. That's fine. You have your  
7 opinion. That's mine. This is America, and I  
8 will state my opinion. But thank you. That's  
9 another option.

10           And then a third option is in the  
11 center of the park there is a possibility of it  
12 going there, along the skyline.

13           What I'm saying is that there are  
14 several alternatives. This isn't something that  
15 can't be rectified. There is a lot of  
16 opportunities. The architect's job isn't to  
17 have an ego and say, "Here is my memorial." The  
18 architect's job is to help heal, is to put  
19 something that fits into this park, is not to

20 block the view. That was the only thing The

21 Friends asked. And we're asking now to go back

22 and do it the right way. Thank you very much.

23 MR. PESIN: Everyone, let's

24 continue to have respect for our -- our

25 speakers. Please, it's very important. Now,

1 we're getting through the list of some of the  
2 people who came to sign up tonight. There are  
3 about a dozen people who signed up, who called  
4 me last night or e-mailed me this morning,  
5 long-term park advocates; but our goal is to get  
6 everyone to speak who wants to speak.

7           Now, I do have to tell you the  
8 sun is setting; and we probably should have just  
9 given everyone a minute because we really want  
10 to hear from everybody. So we do ask the people  
11 if you can try -- from now on to try -- try to  
12 keep your remarks to a minute, though I know  
13 that will be difficult.

14           And the -- there will be some  
15 lights here. The chair company -- we thank  
16 Jersey City for providing the chairs -- they  
17 have to get chairs to Weehawken, so they are  
18 actually going to get the chairs at a quarter to  
19 nine. But we can stay here standing up at least

20 until past 9:30. Liberty Park closes at 10:00.

21           So that that's my request. We

22 really want everyone to speak. We ask you try

23 to speak for a minute. And Kabili Tayari of the

24 local chapter, Jersey City chapter of the NAACP,

25 we have the honor of him speaking here now.

1 Thank you for your patience, everybody.

2           MR. TAYARI: I want to first  
3 remind us of a song that maybe we have taken for  
4 granted. And I kind of changed one verse. And  
5 you know it very well. It's oh, beautiful, for  
6 spacious skies, America, America, God sheds his  
7 grace on thee. And thou good with brotherhood,  
8 from the shore of New Jersey to the shore of New  
9 York.

10           People -- people have said that  
11 we the people, by the people, for the people.  
12 Clearly, people using 9/11 all over this country  
13 who claim to represent us to do things with our  
14 emotions and to betray our emotions and betray  
15 the trust that we put in there. This is not  
16 private land. This is public land. I applaud  
17 the person who came before I spoke and admitted  
18 to his participation in this.

19           But what we have to do is

20 organize because the one thing that we're very  
21 clear on, power doesn't understand anything but  
22 clear, serious organization. That's what Morris  
23 Pesin represented. That's what Audrey Zapp  
24 represented. That's what all those other people  
25 represented. And that's what people like Martin

1 Luther King and Viola Liuzzo and all those other  
2 people from the '50s.

3           So we have to organize. It's  
4 plain and simple. It's just plain and simple.  
5 I would go to the New Jersey NAACP. And I'm  
6 sure we will join in again disagreeing with  
7 this, fighting to have this taken away. It  
8 shouldn't be scaled down. It should just be  
9 removed because -- it should be removed because  
10 the people clearly do not want it, it is not  
11 necessary to be there and, most of all, it's  
12 blocking the view. It's a disgrace to we the  
13 people, by the people and for the people.

14           No one ever asked our opinion,  
15 and no one really cared about our opinion. But  
16 that's because we have to go back to organizing  
17 a real fight against the administration. So  
18 what I ask all of us to do is to attend those  
19 hearings that Assemblyman Lou Manzo talked

20 about, make sure that we go throughout the lands

21 of New Jersey and not just talk to everybody

22 that we know but organize people. And through

23 Sam Pesin and others, let's plan a date when

24 we'll take thousands of people to Trenton and

25 shut Trenton down because we need to let them

1 know.

2           And I'm not talking rhetoric

3 because too often we talk about for the people,

4 too often we talk about we shall overcome and we

5 forget how we even got this park. It came

6 through people organizing and fighting the

7 powers that be.

8           And I just want to close and say

9 this, that, you know, too often we take even our

10 spirituality for granted. But whether we're

11 Jews or Christians or Muslims, the one thing

12 that we must have, the faith in what's right.

13 And when you have the faith in what's right,

14 that's what democracy and justice is based upon.

15           We come together as people, not

16 as black people, not as white people, not as

17 Latinos. But we come together as people, and we

18 stand up for what's right. And in America, if

19 nothing else, we have had a history of having to

20 fight for what's right. So let us organize and

21 fight for what's right. God bless you.

22 MR. KADISH: Hi. My name is Bill

23 Kadish. I am a friend and advocate of Liberty

24 State Park. As a native of Hudson County, my

25 discovery of Liberty State Park has been one of

1 the most important positive events of my  
2 lifetime. The public has fought for and won a  
3 great park. This park has been one of the truly  
4 great open spaces of New Jersey. The open sight  
5 lines, the panoramic views across the river and  
6 up the river, the harbor, that's all so  
7 breathtaking.

8           Now this. Who in their right  
9 mind would approve of putting a 200-foot long,  
10 10-foot high pile of dirt right in front of the  
11 most awe-inspiring view of lower Manhattan and  
12 the sight of the World Trade Center? Is this a  
13 case of destroying a village to save it? This  
14 area is one of our nation's most sacred sites,  
15 made even more so with the role that the park  
16 and terminal played in aiding the 9/11 evacuees.

17           This design treats the North  
18 Plaza area right where we are now as an empty  
19 space to fill, which it is not. This area is an

20 integral part of the overall terminal play-out.

21 This area was open space enjoyed by countless

22 millions of people. It is open space that the

23 public has been trying to protect ever since the

24 beginning of this park.

25           This hill and joint 200-feet

1 walls block some of the most sacred and  
2 panoramic views in the entire nation. It goes  
3 against this principle of open space. And with  
4 the huge scale and placement, it obliterates  
5 views of the river, Lower Manhattan and the  
6 terminal, itself. There has to be a better way  
7 to memorialize this tragedy than by blocking so  
8 many views.

9           The Vietnam memorial in  
10 Washington pays honor to many of our fallen  
11 loved ones but doesn't block any of the  
12 important views on the sacred grounds of the  
13 National Mall.

14           I think that design is not in  
15 harmony with the park and should be changed. I  
16 urge all of you to write to the Governor and so  
17 we can get this thing changed. Let's have a  
18 beautiful memorial and not a view-eating  
19 monster.

20 MR. HOLL: Ladies and Gentlemen,  
21 the next speaker is a father of one of the  
22 September 11th victims. I have -- my name is  
23 John Holl. I am with the Office of Recovery &  
24 Victim Statistics, and I have known Bruce Kane  
25 for almost five years now. He was on the Design

1 Committee of the families.

2           He has a different view than most

3 of you, I'm sure. But I would ask your

4 indulgence as he comes to you tonight to speak

5 to you and address his concerns and his

6 position. And I would just ask that you show

7 him the respect that you have shown everyone

8 else here. And appreciate your cooperation very

9 much. So I would like to introduce Mr. Bruce

10 Kane.

11           MR. KANE: Thank you. I'm not a

12 public speaker, and I may become emotional over

13 this issue. But I wish to make a statement for

14 my family, not from the Design Committee.

15 Howard Kane was controller of Windows on the

16 World Restaurant on the 107th floor of North

17 Tower I when the first plane hit at 8:45 in the

18 morning and perished because he couldn't get out

19 because the plane was right underneath him.

20 It's torn our family literally apart and broken

21 our hearts for five years.

22           Within those five years his

23 son -- well, I need not go into that; but he

24 left a son and a wife. He left a brother, a

25 sister, brother-in-law and sister-in-laws,

1 cousins, who all mourned him. We were one of  
2 the fortunates, to get something back of Howard.  
3 There were 1,400 out of the 3,000 that got  
4 pieces back through DNA. The rest have nothing.  
5 That's close to 2,000 or less, 1,600 roughly.  
6 The only thing they have is a memorial with the  
7 names of their loved ones on it.

8           New York is basically finished,  
9 finished because of what's gone on there  
10 Downtown, finished because of big money,  
11 finished because of politicians. In my lifetime  
12 I doubt whether I will ever see it. I'm 70  
13 years old. There are other people who are older  
14 that have lost family members. Don't make this  
15 another New York, please.

16           Two things have in your hearts,  
17 compassion and understanding. This is all that  
18 these people have. There are 727 names going up  
19 on this memorial. That's taken roughly five

20 years to get to this point. It has not been

21 easy.

22           There are some facts I wish to

23 bring to light, mis-facts that have been quoted

24 here. Number one, the two walls are

25 perpendicular to the -- to this river; they are

1 not down the whole front blocking the view.  
2 They are 16 feet apart. The outside is iodized  
3 stainless steel, which has no reflection. The  
4 inside is the same, except for the panels that  
5 are 3-foot long that will have the names etched  
6 on them. Therefore, the sun rises on the east,  
7 sets in the west, there is no reflection on the  
8 inside to cause the -- these things have been  
9 gone over and over.

10           This mound that you see will be  
11 reduced to 10 feet at the base of each wall,  
12 meaning 6-foot -- 16-foot apart. The idea being  
13 that this is, can I say, untenable land. It's  
14 soft. Pilings have been driven into the bed  
15 below it. The mound was put in to compact the  
16 earth on top of the pilings. 10-foot will  
17 remain at the wall, sloping down to zero feet  
18 gradually, reduction on each side. Your view  
19 will not be blocked.

20           Again, I ask each and every one  
21 of you for one foot donation along here for the  
22 200 feet, which is the exact dimension. Have  
23 compassion. Have humanity. The families  
24 understand what you want to protect. We want to  
25 protect it too, for a hundred years from now. I

1 I want my grandson to see his father's name there,  
2 and I want his sons and daughters to see their  
3 grandfather's name there. Don't move it to  
4 obscurity. Help us build it. Help us. Don't  
5 defeat us. Don't make us another New York.  
6 Thank you.

7           MR. PESIN: Thank you, Mr. Kane.  
8 I believe Mr. Kane, Mr. Holl, Deputy  
9 Commissioner Watson, we all want a memorial.  
10 And we are saying from our hearts that this view  
11 is two segments of block -- even a 10-foot hill  
12 would block that sacred view that used to be an  
13 open -- open vista. And the walls, though they  
14 are mostly going east-west, they will block  
15 views up the river toward the Empire State  
16 Building and block the views down the river.  
17 But the walls, the 10-foot high wall does take  
18 away from what we have as a panoramic, open,  
19 inspiring vista.

20           We hope that the Governor has an  
21 open mind and that he -- we hope Deputy  
22 Commissioner Watson and Frank Gallagher, Deputy  
23 Commissioner, we hope that the Governor will  
24 open the process so there can be some  
25 collaboration, cooperation, communication

1 between public representatives, between victims'

2 families, with the State.

3           And we feel that there shouldn't

4 be a reason why a memorial should not be

5 finished, whether this one in a different

6 location, this one revised, radically revised or

7 going back to the six finalists. There is no

8 reason why it shouldn't be done in a year, in

9 September 2007. We want very much to

10 collaborate and work and we don't want to stall

11 things for years, but we just cannot accept a

12 10-foot hill in this location.

13           Now, I do -- I know I'm talking

14 too much now. But with the darkness, with so

15 many people speaking, I apologize. If we were

16 inside the building, we could have stayed there

17 until a quarter to ten and had lights; but we

18 felt that this was the best place to have this

19 meeting is outside by the hill.

20           So I ask Alan Bardack to speak.

21 I ask please try to keep your comments down to a

22 minute. And we do ask you to write any more

23 comments to the Governor, P.O. Box 001 in

24 Trenton. We have the information at the tables

25 over here. So we want as many people to speak

1 as possible tonight. And we can stay -- even if  
2 the chairs go, we can stay here until ten to ten  
3 tonight. And everyone -- the stenographer is  
4 here, and we keep listening to the important  
5 words that everyone is saying. Thank you.

6 Mr. Alan Bardack.

7           MR. BARDACK: Thank you, Sam, for  
8 that lovely introduction. My name is Alan Roy  
9 Bardack, and I welcome the opportunity to  
10 express my sincere opposition to the position of  
11 9/11 location and to join my fellow citizens  
12 today in also opposing what is supposedly to  
13 happen.

14           The proposed location for the  
15 memorial is going to block the thousands of  
16 visitors to Liberty State Park, families that  
17 come to the park and enjoy the beautiful scenery  
18 of the lower end Manhattan and the skyline. In  
19 addition, the Plaza, where many musical programs

20 were conducted, will no longer be available.

21           The sites of the memorial has

22 already been spoken. I am sure all of us have

23 that in mind, so I don't repeat it. I strongly

24 urge that, being very familiar with Liberty

25 State Park for 30 years, there are other places

1 that will be well to be seen and to move the  
2 memorial there and the height of the memorial  
3 will still be seen over at New York. I think  
4 this would definitely appreciate the memorial,  
5 should be located where it could be visible,  
6 because of its size, without obstructing the --  
7 detracting from anything and letting it stand  
8 alone.

9           Now, for few of you who may not  
10 know, the Soviet Union and their leading  
11 sculptor made a gift to Jersey City about -- a  
12 9/11 gift, and it was supposed to go on downtown  
13 Exchange Place. But it was huge. It was over  
14 50 feet. And the citizens came and opposed it,  
15 so forth. And we sent it out of Jersey City,  
16 and we sent it to Bayonne. See, there is  
17 justice. Now, Bayonne is putting it on a  
18 peninsula now, which goes out 1 mile into the  
19 Hudson River. It was built during World War II.

20 And that's going up now. But even that is not

21 blocking any view of people from Bayonne in

22 seeing -- in seeing Jersey City.

23 I respectfully urge the

24 organizers and planners of this present memorial

25 to reconsider and listen to the public's input

1 on the relocation of the memorial site. To walk  
2 away and not listen would create a great  
3 disservice to our future generations who will no  
4 longer be able to appreciate the beautiful view  
5 of the Manhattan from the Jersey City side. I  
6 thank you for your consideration.

7 MS. ADAMS: Greetings. My name is  
8 Marcia Adams. I am an advocate of the Liberty  
9 State Park Friends. I am also a member of the  
10 Jersey City Parks Coalition. And I'm from the  
11 Madison Avenue Block Association. We need more  
12 open space in the whole city; but this, this is  
13 deplorable. This mountain needs to go.

14 Right after World War II I was  
15 brought here to Virginia -- from Virginia to  
16 that -- we came to that railroad over there.  
17 They are obstructing that railroad, which was  
18 preserved. I'm glad they did preserve it, but  
19 they are taking away our view. I used to swim

20 in this water. We can't do that anymore. But

21 please don't take our view.

22 I just wish that our Governor

23 Corzine would just take it down. Just get rid

24 of it. I'm not being facetious, I don't think

25 so, because the 9/11 victims, I mean, we all

1 share the same feeling about the 9/11 disaster.  
2 I even had a daughter that was working over  
3 there in New York at JPMorgan Chase at that time  
4 that this World Trade Center was bombed. I was  
5 just lucky enough that my daughter came home.

6           And I -- I really truly feel for  
7 those that are lost over there. But this  
8 monument needs to be put someplace else in the  
9 park. We want it. The people of Jersey City do  
10 want the monument, but just not here. Please  
11 move it. Thank you.

12           MS. DUPEY: Hi. I'm Michele  
13 Dupey. What have you done to my park? They  
14 were the first words I spoke when the mound of  
15 encased dirt took away my breath. This mound is  
16 massive. It absolutely obscures everything.  
17 There is no Empire State Building. There is no  
18 Citibank building. There is nothing. I don't  
19 care that 23 feet of dirt settled into 15 feet,

20 which will then settle into 10 feet. Before

21 "Empty Sky" fills the skyline, it is an ugly

22 platform for an ugly monument.

23 "Empty Sky" actually fills the

24 sky with two huge slabs jutting outward. It is

25 not beautiful and delicate like the two blue

1 lights that have shown mimicking the lost hours.

2 And adding those blue lights to the so-called

3 memorial does not make it any less foreboding.

4           I won't settle for losing the

5 grand Plaza where people gathered before

6 entering the Historic Central Railroad, taking

7 in the breeze along the Hudson River and where

8 classic cars and other exhibits were displayed

9 and musical acts performed during the 2002 and

10 2003 Historic Jersey Central Railroad festivals,

11 of which I was employed part-time by the park as

12 fund-raiser co-producer of the festivals.

13           I won't settle for any monument

14 obstructing this beautiful architecture of the

15 historic railroad terminal. And empty skies

16 adjacent to the railroad terminal still fills

17 the sky.

18           What is even more incredulous,

19 there is a historic marker right over there

20 describing the terminal on Liberty Walk and

21 facing the magnificent brick building, yet the

22 terminal cannot be seen and "Empty Sky" destroys

23 its view. Built in 1889, the historic terminal

24 served many tired, poor, huddled masses coming

25 from Ellis Island that populated our great

1 country's expanded land. When did the historic  
2 terminal cease to be a monument in and of  
3 itself?

4           What have you done to my park?

5 No matter who is talking about Liberty State

6 Park, whether it's a park lover or an

7 advertisement for the Liberty Jazz Festival, the

8 comments always include, "with views of the

9 Statue of Liberty and the New York skyline."

10 Why in the world would those bureaucrats

11 entrusted to run Liberty State Park sacrifice

12 the New York skyline, while at the same time use

13 it as a promotional come-on? That's the

14 equivalent of biting the hand that feeds you and

15 just as ridiculous when the hand that is feeding

16 and mouth that's biting come from the same

17 creature.

18           Now, what will you do to my park?

19 You will remove this monstrosity of a dirt

20 mound. You will not erect this out-sized and  
21 ill-conceived monument. You will rebuild the  
22 grand Plaza. There already is a monument at  
23 Liberty State Park commemorating those that  
24 perished on 9/11. It is called, "The Grove of  
25 Remembrance." It's shady areas with the mission

1 of Liberty State Park. So it remains a free,  
2 green, urban State park. The Grove of  
3 Remembrance is a perfect monument at Liberty  
4 State Park to contemplate the severity of that  
5 horrific event and the souls of those who lost  
6 their lives that day.

7           MR. PINKNEY: Good evening. I am  
8 Steve Pinkney; and this is my grandson, Trey.  
9 And we have always been from Jersey City. Now,  
10 we love Sam Pesin. And there would have been  
11 nine holes of golf around here somewhere, if it  
12 hadn't been for him before. We -- we -- Sam  
13 fought that fight and got that golf course moved  
14 over across town. And this has got to happen  
15 again here today.

16           9/11 should not be in conflict  
17 with anything. But always what I'm finding is  
18 that we go from one extreme to the other. We go  
19 from a very poor city that needed to be rebuilt

20 to a very rich city that doesn't seem to want

21 the people who used to be here.

22           Now, I'm part of a group, the

23 artists and residents out of the library who

24 played music on this great lawn. And this is a

25 place for people to sit and to enjoy nature.

1 And to see a band playing live music with their  
2 back to New York City is awesome. And we have  
3 enjoyed this great lawn, and now they have taken  
4 part of the great lawn away. It's got to stop.  
5 There has got to be a fix. There has to be  
6 balance. There has got to be something for  
7 everybody.

8           Because it seems like we getting  
9 a second golf course that's going to take  
10 Lincoln Park away. We're getting these things  
11 that are going to change Jersey City from being  
12 regular folk to folk we don't know. So Trey,  
13 all together, tell them, "This is our park."  
14 Tell them.

15           TREY PINKNEY: This is our park.

16           DR. LAWNER: Hi, Everybody. I'm  
17 Dr. Ethel Lawner. I was a president of The  
18 Citizens Committee of Hudson County. We were  
19 the group that stopped the Boulevard from

20 becoming a highway. We stopped the breaking up

21 of the courthouse that was a great treasure.

22 And we stopped the chemical tanks on the

23 peninsula, which is now Port Liberte.

24           The only reason I'm telling you

25 this is that when a gang get together and decide

1 they don't like what's happening, you can do  
2 something about it. We put our politicians on  
3 the right track a few times, and we can do it  
4 again.

5           I am sure here that most of you  
6 people do want a monument. And we should have  
7 one. And a meaningful one and one in the right  
8 place and the right kind.

9           My feeling about this is that we  
10 have a nice quiet little area for a garden, a  
11 monument as a centerpiece and maybe even a  
12 little fountain with carvings of the names in.  
13 And we should have a very happy time and  
14 pleasant time, where we can sit and talk and  
15 chat and look across the river and enjoy the  
16 scene. That's what we should be doing here.  
17 And have plenty of flowers and nice things  
18 around that we can look at.

19           And most of what I have written

20 has already been told. I don't want to be

21 redundant, so I am not going to repeat all those

22 things. I was the one who talked about,

23 Mr. Corzine, Ronald Reagan would say, "Get those

24 walls down." We all mean it, and we meant it

25 when we wrote that too.

1           And I think that these walls, if  
2 put up, would feel imprisoned. It would be like  
3 we're in jail. We can't see across. We can't  
4 see the boats on the river. We can't see the  
5 beautiful scenes across the water when -- when  
6 dark comes and the windows get pink on the New  
7 York side. It's a beautiful sight and can't  
8 even see it. We won't even be seeing the clouds  
9 soon.

10           So I just want to thank you all  
11 for coming and hope you all do your best to stop  
12 this thing from happening. Thank you.

13           I must add they left me the last  
14 one because I am -- and Ethel make sure I had a  
15 ride home.

16           MS. WINANT: Thank you. That was  
17 Ethel Lawner, who is also a friend of Audrey  
18 Zapp's. This completes the number of people  
19 that were to speak, except for myself. And I

20 just want to say one quick thing.

21           Audrey Zapp, who is a godmother

22 of this yard, of this park, as you know, how

23 many of you do know Audrey Zapp and remember

24 her? Show of hands. Yeah, she is terrific.

25 She is not only the godmother, she is also my

1 other mother. And when she passed the torch to  
2 me ten years ago, I just want to say that I have  
3 been on several boards and committees since I  
4 have been here ten years and I was never  
5 informed of a public hearing, which I find  
6 shocking but also insulting.

7           If everybody should have a  
8 public -- anybody should have a public hearing,  
9 it's this park because we have always had, as  
10 Ethel said, a public hearing. And it's a  
11 people's park, and people have the right to  
12 hear. And without further ado, unless Sam has  
13 anyone else to speak.

14           MR. PESIN: Just want to say  
15 everyone is going to speak. Now, those are the  
16 people who reserved last night, yesterday, the  
17 longtime park advocates who called. We want  
18 everyone to speak now. Dorcey is going to read  
19 a list. You can come near the podium.

20           Because of the darkness and the  
21 time, we ask please try to stay to a minute.  
22 But we really want everyone to speak. We will  
23 stay here. Tracey, the wonderful stenographer,  
24 is going to be here. The park closes at ten.  
25 Sound system is here. We can go up until -- we

1 will have enough lights. We can be here -- we  
2 have to get out of the park by ten. It will be  
3 ten to ten.

4           Everyone who wants to speak is  
5 going to speak. Dorcey is going to read the  
6 list that she has. If you are not on the list,  
7 if you want to speak, you can definitely get to  
8 speak.

9           MS. WINANT: Thank you. The list  
10 I have, the first list, some of them have  
11 already said they couldn't speak; but they did  
12 sign to say whether they are for or against.  
13 And that's important.

14           For those of you who are here,  
15 Everett Warner. Just line up over here.  
16 Catherine Grimm. Jean Reilly. Barbara Meis.  
17 Steven Gucciardi. Sarah Sapano. Alan Roy  
18 Bardack. Sorry, that's right. See, I told you  
19 I missed one. Dr. Cindy Arrigo. Dan Sicardi.

20 Ed Spare. Gregory Giordano. John Gellman.

21 Wayne Greenstone. And Walter McDermott. That

22 is from this list.

23           And if you could limit it as

24 little as possible, we would appreciate it

25 because we, as Sam said, we only have so much

1 time here. The first person here to speak, is

2 Everett Warner here?

3 MR. WARNER: Yes.

4 MS. WINANT: Okay, good. Everett

5 Warner.

6 MR. WARNER: Good evening,

7 everybody. I grew up in Jersey City. I live in

8 Kearny now, but I'm against this setup and the

9 precepts of what Mr. Pesin has fought hard.

10 It's probably the largest urban park in the

11 whole United States. I came down on the shuttle

12 bus. There was a lady from the Philippines.

13 There was a person from Australia. And there

14 was about three different countries. And they

15 asked about this park. So that shows you that

16 people from all over the world come through here

17 and millions of people in the whole 30 years who

18 can be proud of what Morris Pesin and same Pesin

19 did. And that's good to see the solidarity that

20 you have here tonight. Thank you for listening

21 to me.

22 DR. ARRIGO: How do you do? I'm

23 Dr. Cindy Arrigo, and I'm here because I was

24 hoping you would be able to see my hat. I want

25 to show you that my husband and I would be

1 willing to be tour guides of what exists on this  
2 park as a living monument. And living monument  
3 for every soul lost at 9/11 already exists at  
4 this park in the Grove of Remembrance. I am a  
5 tree keeper in that general area. One already  
6 exists. This is not the place, and now is not  
7 the time for a monument like this. Thank you.

8           MS. STENLAKE: Hello. My name is  
9 Grace Stenlake; and I just wanted to say that 40  
10 years ago, when we opened this park, it was my  
11 band who opened the park. We are the ones who  
12 played The Star Spangled Banner. It was the  
13 Jersey City Lasses, which was the Jersey City  
14 Department of Recreation all-girls band. And we  
15 were here for years and years and years. But we  
16 were the ones who opened up the park when we  
17 played it in the railroad station.

18           But there is also one thing I  
19 wanted to say too. Eighty years ago, when we

20 used to come down, we wouldn't know -- there was

21 no park here, but it was a bunch of junk and all

22 it was. I'm sure there is a lot of other people

23 sitting here that used to come down those years

24 too. But there was no park, nothing like it.

25 But all they could have is broken up junk that

1 was here, there and everywhere. There were all

2 old docks.

3           And so when we come and we look

4 and we see New York and then we see this mounds

5 of dirt, I say not what the mayor said -- he

6 said take the dirt, the mounds, and move them

7 someplace else in the park. I say take all the

8 dirt and take it back to where it came from.

9           Okay, all right. I'm sure

10 everything is going to happen that will turn out

11 okay; but I just wanted to let you know that we

12 are so, so happy to have a beautiful park like

13 this. And New York means a lot to all of us, I

14 know. But you know, we have a lot of memories.

15           So anyhow, take back the dirty

16 old dirt and put it where it came from. Never

17 mind putting it in another area of the park to

18 build the mounds.

19           I will tell you one thing more.

20 I know it's getting late, but one more thing. I

21 am going to take one minute and one quarter.

22 Now, I was sent the most beautiful picture from

23 Cambridge, England of the memorial of all the --

24 that they have over there of our service men

25 that fought in the war in World War II. I gave

1 the picture to Sam.

2           And it's flat, and it's got --

3 it's a beautiful garden, and they have the wall

4 alongside of it with all the names of our

5 fellas. They were the -- all the different

6 sailors that were there and soldiers. But in

7 the middle is a beautiful park. It's flat on

8 the ground. It's on no hill. And there is

9 flowers all around. And the names of the fellas

10 are on this wall that's down the side.

11           But anyway, I gave Sam the

12 picture. And they could look at it for the most

13 beautiful memorial without any hill. You don't

14 need a hill to have a monument done. But

15 anyway, I have overstepped my time, so I will go

16 out before I am thrown down the stairs.

17           MS. GRIMM: Good evening, Ladies

18 and Gentlemen. I am Catherine Grimm. I am

19 third generation in this City. I grew up in the

20 neighborhood where Audrey and Warren Zapp, Ethel

21 Sam and Morris Pesin lived. And Dr. Lawner was

22 a neighbor. We were all neighbors.

23 I came down to this area in the

24 early '70s, late '60s, and I experienced

25 something else that no one will ever experience

1 in this area about the abundance of wildlife  
2 that was in this area. And it kept bringing me  
3 back. And also, the peace and quiet and  
4 solitude kept bringing me back down here day  
5 after day.

6           Now, one very important thing is  
7 really forgotten. You keep talking about the  
8 footsteps of the World Trade Center, sacred,  
9 hallow ground. This is a historic site because  
10 of the history of the railroads, immigration;  
11 and it was also a sacred, hallow site because of  
12 the 9/11. This was one of the first demarcation  
13 of the evacuees from New York City. It was also  
14 a triage. The evacuees from New York City went  
15 through here on their way to safety.

16           This park stands for democracy.  
17 The people in the trade center were killed  
18 because of people that do not like democracy. I  
19 feel for them, and I felt hard for them that

20 day. We need a monument that embraces them, not

21 mourns them. They are still with us. Their

22 memory will always stay with those that they

23 were close to. We need a monument that will

24 honor them.

25           The view from here takes in the

1 whole New York skyline. The whole of New York  
2 was involved in 9/11, not just the footsteps,  
3 not just the people from Jersey City -- from New  
4 Jersey. People from around the world were  
5 involved in the 9/11. We want to honor the  
6 people from our State that were killed in that  
7 massacre, just like we do the people from our  
8 cities.

9           But we also have to honor -- what  
10 the terrorists tried to do, they tried to  
11 destroy New York City. They tried to destroy  
12 our spirit. We have to fight them for democracy  
13 everywhere, not just here but everywhere. And  
14 we have to be sure of what we're fighting for.  
15 This is what we're fighting for, the right to  
16 free speech, the right to express our opinions,  
17 the right to exchange our opinions with one  
18 another.

19           This monument is like tunnel

20 vision. This is it. No ands, ifs or buts.

21 That is not democracy. The DEP met with the

22 survivors of 9/11. They did not meet with the

23 people of the State. They did not meet with the

24 people of Liberty State Park. They did not meet

25 with the people of Jersey City. Thank you.

1 MS. RICHMOND: Alicia Richmond. I  
2 live here. I will take less than 60 seconds.  
3 Do you know that you are going to be billed for  
4 this project? Yes, you, me, we are in a  
5 distressed city. We are in a distressed State.  
6 So just know that we will be billed. It only  
7 took me a minute.

8 MS. REILLY: Hi. My name is Jean  
9 Reilly. I'm a lifelong Jersey City resident. I  
10 would like to direct my comments to Trenton. I  
11 do not believe that anyone from Trenton has been  
12 in this park before this monstrosity was put up.  
13 If they were, they would see people coming and  
14 stopping long before they got to that fence over  
15 there and just silence, looking over at what  
16 used to be the World Trade Center.

17 Yes, it's a very emotional thing.  
18 It will always be a very emotional thing. We do  
19 not need this monstrosity to block the view.

20 Don't tell me I can walk around it. I should be

21 able to see that and to have my own personal

22 very sad feelings. Trenton, listen to us. We

23 are going to March on you.

24 MS. SAPANO: Hello. My name is

25 Sarah Sapano. I was born and raised in Jersey

1 City, and I grew up with this park. I am an  
2 artist, and I am opposed to this design. I took  
3 a walk around this mound; and frankly, I'm  
4 concerned that the memorial will be a hazard.  
5 Looking at the design, I wouldn't and I'm sure  
6 some of you wouldn't feel comfortable walking  
7 through these large ominous claustrophobic  
8 walls. There are no breaks in between, no  
9 escape. God forbid anything happening to you  
10 between these walls with the blistering heat or  
11 the dark of night, where no one can find you or  
12 help you.

13           The brave souls of 9/11 must be  
14 honored; but please, not like this. I already  
15 wrote to the Governor, and you should too.  
16 Thank you.

17           MR. SICARDI: Hello. My name is  
18 Dan Sicardi. And before I say anything else I  
19 just want to thank all the previous speakers

20 because my daughter was in the audience  
21 watching. She is 13 years old. And if there is  
22 ever an opportunity for a child to benefit by a  
23 wonderful civics expression, this is the  
24 opportunity for her to get it.

25           There were some wonderful

1 speakers, and they were all voicing the same  
2 opinion. Everybody that's still here is against  
3 that; and everybody that's here really  
4 appreciates, tries to understand but can never  
5 comprehend the incredible loss that those people  
6 that lost loved ones on 9/11.

7           As long as we leave here tonight  
8 and do what we're supposed to, which is get in  
9 touch with all of the officials from Trenton and  
10 make sure that this doesn't go forward, then we  
11 will have spent our time-wisely. Thank you very  
12 much.

13           MR. GIORDANO: Hi. My name is  
14 Gregory Giordano. I was involved in the -- with  
15 the coalition to avoid the golf course to come  
16 in here. And I was sitting and listening to the  
17 speakers. Somebody came to my -- it was Richard  
18 Friedman, Richard Friedman was a Nobel prize  
19 winner twice as a physicist. He said the

20 average individual knows just as much as most

21 experts. And I think we see that when you have

22 a grouping of people like this.

23           And this should never have gotten

24 this far. It should have only gotten as far as

25 paper. On paper and if it was presented at a

1 meeting of people like ourselves, this would  
2 never have gotten off the ground, not even this  
3 far.

4           And what's amazing is that there  
5 has been no consideration that these walls here  
6 would not, in all probability, survive a real  
7 hurricane. We are in a position, as we are in a  
8 global warming phase, and hurricanes are going  
9 to be more severe. We have been fortunate that  
10 we haven't received one as of yet. There has  
11 been several years now that we have avoided it.  
12 But it's coming.

13           And a structure like this, its  
14 chances, even if it's on piles -- you have a  
15 situation down in Katrina, and you saw oil  
16 derricks ripped out of the water. These are on  
17 piles, as well, as well as massive buildings  
18 that were transported hundreds of yards away.

19           So this is a good example of

20 meetings like this should be available to the  
21 people, and this would never have gotten off the  
22 ground. Thank you.

23           MR. PESIN: Thank you so much,  
24 everyone, for trying to keep your remarks short;  
25 but we do have time. If anyone else wants to

1 speak, please come up to the side. Looks like I  
2 don't see the chair people yet, but we can keep  
3 standing here. And as I said, we can stay until  
4 ten to ten.

5           I want to mention I just have  
6 about 30 copies of a petition to Governor  
7 Corzine with about ten spaces for signatures  
8 that are available at our table over there, if  
9 you want to pick one up and get some friends and  
10 families to sign it and mail it to the Governor.  
11 Check our web site, theFOLSP.org, for about  
12 information about the Governor's address. Thank  
13 you.

14           MR. GELLMAN: I'm John Gellman. I  
15 am a trustee of the Hamilton Park Neighborhood  
16 Association. People have spoken very eloquently  
17 about what's wonderful about this spot; but what  
18 strikes me about the whole process that's taking  
19 place is that everyone still views Liberty State

20 Park as their blank slate, that they think this

21 is the place they are going to dump their

22 project, whatever it may be, whether a golf

23 course or this memorial. It's not.

24           The people were not involved.

25 The people who made this decision weren't Jersey

1 City residents. They weren't the people who  
2 were going to come here and see this day after  
3 day, week after week. There are people who  
4 might come here in remembrance for a few moments  
5 once a year. This wasn't their park. This was  
6 someplace that they thought of, just in very  
7 isolation, this was the place for the memorial,  
8 not the park. The people who this is their park  
9 need a voice in the process, not to have it  
10 hoisted on them.

11           MR. GREENSTONE: My name is Wayne  
12 Greenstone. I am a friend of Liberty State  
13 Park, and I want to thank Sam for the incredible  
14 job he did putting this evening together and  
15 mobilizing all of the tremendous leaders and  
16 speakers and people who have come here to make  
17 our voice heard. I will be very brief because  
18 we have heard some incredible speeches tonight.

19           This park is a miracle. It's a

20 testament to the voice of the people who

21 determined that we needed open space, free space

22 and a place for soaring spirits. It's not a

23 place for open skies -- it's not a place for

24 empty skies. It's a place for open hearts.

25           Every single person who spoke

1 here has expressed their concern for the victims  
2 of 9/11. We all feel deeply, and we all mourn  
3 that loss. The sacredness of this place is that  
4 you can walk up to that rail right at the river  
5 and look across and be in communion with that  
6 spirit and with what happened. That's a  
7 memorial. That's a living memorial that we can  
8 all feel.

9           If you go to some of the many  
10 memorials that were built, like in West Orange  
11 at Eagle Rock Reservation, there is a small  
12 sculpture. There is a wall with the name of  
13 every single victim. And there is nothing to  
14 impede the view of New York City from that  
15 mountain ridge. And there is no reason why we  
16 can't honor the people who we lost and mourn  
17 there in a similar way without obliterating this  
18 most sacred view of Manhattan, of Liberty, of  
19 Ellis Island and the things we all cherish.

20           The Hallmark of democracy is that  
21 we participate in the process where everyone has  
22 a voice. This process has lacked the voice of  
23 the people. And hopefully now that voice will  
24 be heard.

25           DR. McDERMOTT: Good evening. I

1 am Dr. Walter McDermott. One Tuesday night I  
2 came down here anticipating a nice concert and  
3 feeling the breeze right at the waterfront. I  
4 came down here, no concert. I see there is  
5 dirt; and I thought, well, they are going to  
6 continue with the walkway, that's a good thing.  
7 Was I surprised with what this dirt was here  
8 for. I say ditch the dirt.

9           In 1986 Morris Pesin, I had the  
10 honor of talking to him. And James Gannon and  
11 myself designed a shirt for the centennial of  
12 the Statue of Liberty. And the shirt was,  
13 "Liberty Lives in New Jersey." And Morris Pesin  
14 reminded me it was not just the statue, but in  
15 terms of liberty in New Jersey, what he went  
16 through, how he galvanized the people and made  
17 this dream come true. If it were left up to the  
18 politicians, this would still be a fallow  
19 ground.

20 Democracy in action. His  
21 brother-in-law, who I knew very well, Alan  
22 Horowitz, Judge Alan Horowitz, had the same  
23 philosophy in terms of our courts. The people  
24 need to be heard. This is the people's court.  
25 We are in America. We have a right to voice our

1 opinion, to defend ourselves and receive fair

2 treatment.

3           Then Congressman Guarini heard

4 about this shirt; and he ordered a shirt for

5 every member of the Congress, the Senate, the

6 Governor of New Jersey, Tom Kane, who I received

7 a very nice letter from, and also from the --

8 for every Assembly member and State Senator in

9 New Jersey. And Congressman Guarini reminded me

10 that liberty truly does live in New Jersey, that

11 on the other side of the river they were loyal

12 to the king, yet democracy lives here.

13           What we want is freedom and

14 democracy. Liberty lives in New Jersey. Then

15 Councilman Vincent Signorelli got a shirt for

16 every member of the council, stating, "Liberty

17 Lives in New Jersey" because everybody has the

18 right, no matter what the council is voting on,

19 to speak their opinion, to be heard and -- and

20 be given a voice.

21           So I say what are our State

22 leaders thinking when they are subverting our

23 voice? What are they afraid of? Let the people

24 be heard. Let liberty live in New Jersey. Let

25 democracy prevail. And let's ditch the dirt.

1           And Sam, I would like to present  
2 you with this shirt. There are very few of them  
3 left. This is in a Congressional record. I  
4 want you to have it. Liberty lives in New  
5 Jersey. Thank you very much, everybody.

6           MR. TORRES: Good evening, New  
7 Jersey. My name is Rafael Torres. I'm a past  
8 president of an organization for the Hispanic  
9 firefighters in Jersey City. I am a Jersey City  
10 firefighter; and I have been working with Sam,  
11 his great mother Ethel. And we did a lot of the  
12 projects. And now, as a community activist, I'm  
13 usually in the backdrop or in the background in  
14 a lot of these fights.

15           I am an artist, though. And as  
16 an artist I come up here to just say to our  
17 government in New Jersey, Governor Corzine, this  
18 is an important time. In the reflection that's  
19 happening here is a reflection for the future of

20 our side and also the New York side and for the

21 people who we lost. As a firefighter this was

22 the triage area. I remember this. And I

23 remember it all the time when I think of 9/11.

24 But I don't think this is the solution.

25           This can't be the solution, a

1 solution with so much ugliness and without any  
2 reference to a good piece of art. If you just  
3 add those walls and bring them up a little  
4 higher, it will look like a cemetery, with a  
5 tombstone and a mound. That's what it looks  
6 like to me.

7           And I think the Governor and the  
8 government of New Jersey should look a little  
9 bit into the history of what we did to make this  
10 park what it is today. And what we need to do  
11 is have a little bit more compassion and  
12 inclusion of the people that live here who are  
13 artists, who can probably give a different look  
14 at what we should do for the 9/11 victims.

15           Please, what we need to do is  
16 let's get together and try to get some kind of  
17 agreement and try to get us included into the  
18 many boards that make decisions like this.  
19 Thank you.

20 MR. ARMBRUSTER: My name is Bill

21 Armbruster. The failure to allow -- to give the

22 public a voice in the decision-making about this

23 memorial is an obscenity, and it dishonors the

24 memories of those who died across the river on

25 September 11th. Thank you.

1           MR. FALCON: My name is Dan  
2 Falcon; and I'm the web master of a popular web  
3 site, Jersey City List. It's a web site where  
4 people go to voice their opinion, just like we  
5 are doing now. And I have read what people have  
6 posted on that web site about this memorial.  
7 And most people are against it, just like you  
8 are.

9           But did you know that Jersey City  
10 has this memorial already built, almost the  
11 exact same one? It's down there in Newport.  
12 It's two walls parallel with a sight line to the  
13 World Trade Center. Newport built it. They  
14 didn't ask anybody's permission. They didn't  
15 have any public forum. And there are probably  
16 four more 9/11 memorials in Jersey City.

17           And Jersey City government is  
18 responsible for all these memorials. And they  
19 are all quite bad, especially the tombstone

20 that's on the other side of the Goldman Sachs

21 tower. It was unveiled 2002 September 11th,

22 8:45 a.m. It's a tombstone with a piece of

23 steel.

24           And when it was unveiled at 8:45

25 a.m., they wanted to have doves fly out over the

1 river. But some guy couldn't get the doves, so  
2 he went to a slaughter house in Newark, New  
3 Jersey and got poultry pigeons. And they  
4 released them with the mayor and all the  
5 dignitaries there at 8:45 a.m. September 11th,  
6 2002. These birds could not fly, and they dove  
7 into the river and crashed into buildings, an  
8 embarrassment for the city. That was reported  
9 all over the world.

10           So the State now wants to do  
11 this, another embarrassment for the city. I say  
12 let's do it right. And this is not the right  
13 way.

14           MR. GIAMBUSSO: Good evening. My  
15 name is Louis Giambusso. I am from Bayonne. I  
16 came down here tonight because I saw the  
17 pictures in the Jersey Journal and I knew they  
18 were going to put a 30-foot wall up. I thought  
19 it was going to be on the lawn on the other side

20 of the building. I came down here and I saw --

21 I couldn't believe it's here, just from the

22 view.

23           Fourteen years ago I met my

24 parents at Newark Airport. We were picking up

25 some cousins from Seattle. It was -- it was a

1 miserable rainy night. They finally got in. My  
2 father was hungry. We drove past 14A because  
3 the weather cleared, it was a beautiful night  
4 like this. And my father said, "Where are you  
5 going?" I said, "Ten minutes, Dad." We came  
6 down there. We parked right over there. The  
7 people got out of the car, and they just  
8 couldn't believe it. They couldn't believe the  
9 view. They still talk about this. This is the  
10 spot. You can see the city from anyplace along  
11 the park, but this is the spot.

12           I remember about nine months  
13 after 9/11 I saw elderly couple standing on the  
14 other side of the park, complete north end of  
15 it. The guy was trying to figure out where the  
16 World Trade Center was, and they had a hard time  
17 picking out the spot. You have to find those  
18 buildings. You can't see from there. Over here  
19 somewhere. But from here it's right there. And

20 if you put up a 30-foot wall in front of that

21 spot, no one is going to come here to look at

22 the spot.

23           My -- I have a daughter who --

24 who cannot go to a 9/11 memorial still. She

25 can't deal with it. But she can come down here,

1 and she can heal. She can look at those spots,  
2 but she can't go to a 9/11 memorial. And if  
3 they put this thing up over here, she won't be  
4 coming here either.

5 MR. McLAUGHLIN: Evening. Good  
6 evening. My name is Bob McLaughlin. I have  
7 been in this city for 62 years. I was born  
8 here. I was raised here. And I will die here.  
9 And the name of this park is Liberty. And New  
10 York skyline is a symbol of all that liberty.  
11 And the terrorists came, and they bombed it to  
12 destroy the liberty that we have. And now by  
13 building -- by building this wall and putting up  
14 a monstrosity like this to block out the rest of  
15 the skyline that the terrorists didn't destroy,  
16 our Governor has become one of the terrorists by  
17 completing what these men started.

18 MS. O'BRIEN: Hi. My name is  
19 Theresa O'Brien, and I am from Jersey City. And

20 9/11/2001 I was working at Pershing over at  
21 Grove Street at a trading floor. And all of our  
22 phones went dead at five to nine; and we  
23 realized that all of our coworkers and clients  
24 that we talk to on a daily basis were actually  
25 being, unfortunately, burned alive before our

1 eyes. We could see with the naked eye the  
2 towers as they exploded.

3           And when I heard about what was  
4 going on down here today, I had to come here.  
5 And Sam asked me to read my letter to Governor  
6 Corzine. And I didn't think it was necessary  
7 because I expected that the Governor would be  
8 here. So in light of that naivete on my behalf,  
9 I would like to read this letter to Governor  
10 Corzine and urge all of you to do the same and  
11 let him know how you feel.

12           Dear Governor Corzine, I recently  
13 took some visiting family members who had grown  
14 up in our town on a tour of the new Jersey City.  
15 We drove down to the New Jersey Central Railroad  
16 Terminal Plaza at Liberty State Park to remember  
17 our fallen Americans who were victims of the  
18 World Trade Center attack. We were stunned to  
19 see a huge mound of earth, which everyone agreed

20 looked like a dump of some sort, and couldn't

21 imagine who put it there and why it was

22 violating such a sacred view.

23           We later learned that it is

24 supposed to be a World Trade Center memorial,

25 which clearly does not encourage disabled people

1 to even participate in it. Please reconsider  
2 installing this visual obstruction. We don't  
3 need more walls or towers on our water's edge.  
4 Please listen to the people of Jersey City who  
5 acutely remember and pray for the fallen each  
6 time we look at that area of the skyline.

7           Liberty State Park was the  
8 welcoming place for the victims, both alive and  
9 dead, for days following that tragic day. This  
10 landscape should remain open, unobstructed and  
11 continue to provide fluid access between the  
12 Hudson River and pedestrian areas, just as it  
13 was on that historic day we strived to  
14 memorialize.

15           Jersey City's residents,  
16 neighbors and friends don't deserve this bleak  
17 obstacle to the alter rail of prayer along the  
18 beautiful Hudson estuary. One can see people  
19 all hours of the day and night respectfully

20 gazing upon and praying at that alter rail where

21 our innocent coworkers and families were

22 sacrificed.

23           The mound or hill being built on

24 that site has a profoundly negative effect and

25 obstructs movement, light and hope. The current

1 location is definitely the wrong place for it.  
2 Our Garden of Remembrance on the water's edge,  
3 level and accessible to all, will be a much more  
4 suitable site for this memorial, rather than the  
5 obstructing 10-foot hill and structures that are  
6 currently planned.

7           Governor Corzine, we hope the  
8 opinions and feelings of all who mourn our  
9 victims will be respected and that a redesign of  
10 the World Trade Center memorial at Liberty State  
11 Park will be undertaken. Thank you very much.

12           MR. PFISTER: Hi. My name is  
13 Thomas Pfister. I grew up in Essex County, and  
14 I had only heard about Liberty State Park  
15 through whatever was on the news. And I think,  
16 like most people that had never been to Liberty  
17 State Park, when you hear, "Jersey City," you  
18 think, "You don't go there; it's not a nice  
19 area, it's" -- I'm being honest. I grew up in

20 Essex County, like I said.

21           The first time I wandered into

22 Liberty State Park I had heard that it was an

23 oasis in the middle of the urban area, and I

24 thought it was an overstatement. Boy, was I

25 wrong. It is just the best thing I think that I

1 have ever wandered into by mistake.

2           Sundays I come for the concerts.

3 Last year -- I stand along here, watch all the

4 boats come in from Ellis Island and people from

5 the Statue of Liberty. People come off and walk

6 around. They look at the view over there. Most

7 times -- at least one time every Sunday someone

8 comes up to me and asks me to take a picture.

9 They don't ask me to take a picture with the

10 Goldman Sachs building in the background. They

11 don't ask me to take a picture with the new

12 condos going up in the background. They ask me

13 to take a picture -- first question is, "Do you

14 know where the World Trade Center stood?" I

15 say, "Yeah, right over there. I will take a

16 picture, no problem."

17           This wall is going to destroy

18 things. I started walking Jersey City probably

19 around the late '90s. And half the buildings,

20 half the skyscrapers up there I saw built. You

21 cannot walk from one end of Washington Boulevard

22 to the next or you -- you used to be able to

23 walk and look to the right and see the skyline

24 with all the condos going up, with all the

25 office towers going up. This is the only area

1 that you can look all around the park and either  
2 see the skyline or you can see the Statue of  
3 Liberty.

4           If this thing goes, if this wall  
5 goes up, it's going to be the end for Jersey  
6 City because this is the only free space that is  
7 available. And once this is gone, that's going  
8 to be it.

9           I just ask that Governor Corzine  
10 reexamine the steps that the last administration  
11 took for putting this up and hold public forums  
12 and listen to the people because I think the  
13 view should be for everyone, not just the people  
14 paying \$3,000 a month rent or paying \$700,000  
15 for a condominium, which is what they're going  
16 for. They are the people that can afford the  
17 view. If this wall goes up, it's just going to  
18 be for the rich. I think the view should be for  
19 everyone. Thank you.

20 MS. CONNOLLY: Hello. My name is

21 Kathleen Connolly. I live in Jersey City, and I

22 often come here to bike. This is -- this is

23 really something so terrible to see this.

24 It's -- it doesn't leave you with a feeling of

25 reckoning that these people died. It's -- it's

1 a feeling of this is a horrible thing and we  
2 have to keep going to war and keep building ugly  
3 structures.

4           And it's -- its blocking this  
5 wonderful view in our park, the park, the  
6 only -- it's our -- it's our urban oasis. We  
7 have this in Jersey City. I mean, Jersey City,  
8 our leadership is such that we have to  
9 constantly work to get any kind of recreation in  
10 this city. Hoboken has a walkway. They have  
11 extended parks. They have water fountains.  
12 They have gorgeous all along the river. New  
13 York City, all along the river, up to the George  
14 Washington Bridge, you can bicycle, you can  
15 Rollerblade. They have all sorts of recreation.  
16 And it's a tragedy that this City of almost  
17 300,000, we can't do anything, build something.

18           I like the idea of a flower bed,  
19 something low, you can see from a distance, yes,

20 yes, that's New York and those flowers there

21 that -- that's in remembrance of those survivors

22 of those people that died over there. That's a

23 good feeling. That's a good feeling.

24           You're not letting this tragedy

25 take hold and just not build something good from

1 it. So again, this is -- this is a lack of  
2 planning. It's a failure to respect those that  
3 died. And I do not wish to see this here.  
4 Thank you.

5 MS. KELLEHER: Good evening,  
6 friends. It's great to see so many good friends  
7 in the audience. This is such a heartfelt  
8 crowd, and I'm very proud to be here tonight  
9 supporting Sam. Really quick thing I would like  
10 to say, as -- I'm the director of Jersey City  
11 Cultural Affairs. My office runs all of these  
12 concerts that people keep mentioning.

13 I was pretty surprised when I  
14 came down and saw this mound behind me. I kept  
15 hearing about the 9/11 memorial, but I think  
16 this is one of those situations where hindsight  
17 is 20/20. My office receives many, many calls  
18 about this issue. Our concerts have become a  
19 arena for this discussion. And the thing I hear

20 mostly -- and it's very important that the

21 victims' families hear this. The thing I hear

22 mostly, no one is against a memorial. We want

23 to remember these people.

24 I remember being down here on

25 September 11 myself and my brother-in-law

1 calling us and asking us to come down here to

2 Liberty State Park to look for him and --

3 because news reports kept saying that people

4 were here. And it was very hard to tell him

5 that there really weren't people here. So I

6 remember that day. I have seen people's pain

7 firsthand. And if I could wash it away, I would

8 in a moment.

9           But all of that aside, I think

10 that it is absolutely incredible that this is

11 blocking the view of the World -- where the

12 World Trade once stood. I think the way to

13 remember is to look across at the empty sky. We

14 know the empty sky. We were all here

15 hand-in-hand with our neighbor New York loading

16 ships, trying to help people get home to their

17 loved ones who jumped on a ferry.

18           It is absolutely the wrong spot.

19 I hope that the Governor hears the plea of our

20 mayor who has written a letter to him asking for

21 this public hearing. I thank the Governor for

22 having allowed this public hearing. But we need

23 to do more, and we need to move it.

24           The last thing I need to say, as

25 the director of Cultural Affairs, I know this.

1 The other side of the park, where Morris Pesin  
2 Drive is -- and people need to know this -- that  
3 is considered sacred ground, off limits to  
4 events. I cannot apply, you cannot apply for an  
5 event on that ground because it is considered  
6 sacred. There are memorials there.

7           I have been told by the park over  
8 and over again -- and they are wonderful people  
9 here at the park -- they will allow me later to  
10 apply for events in this area. And in respect  
11 to the victims' families and to the victims, I  
12 believe that if we have some events here that  
13 are loud and raucous and have different kinds of  
14 folk music, maybe antiwar and things like that,  
15 there just might be some people who find that to  
16 be disrespectful and also want to call this  
17 sacred ground.

18           This is a place of life. And I  
19 am -- maybe it's my culture. Maybe Irish

20 people, we celebrate life. Even in death we  
21 celebrate afterlife. We celebrate the life that  
22 that person lived. And I know people --  
23 unfortunately, I know people who perished on  
24 9/11. I think they want us to celebrate life.  
25 I do not want Liberty State Park to be a

1 cemetery. And I'm afraid that's what it's  
2 turning into.

3           Now, at this time I have the  
4 pleasure of introducing my lovely husband, Jose  
5 Arango, who is the Chairman of the Republican  
6 Party. And he is also former Assemblyman in the  
7 State of New Jersey. So thanks.

8           MR. ARANGO: Good evening. I'm  
9 here because I don't want to say nothing about  
10 Republican, nothing about the Assembly. We are  
11 all Americans. And we have to have cool heads  
12 and warm hearts. Cool heads because we have to  
13 unite to make sure that Governor Corzine  
14 rectifies the mistakes of his predecessor.  
15 Smart people, when they make a mistake, they  
16 will rectify the mistakes. Our neighbor,  
17 Governor Corzine, I'm pretty sure, if he comes  
18 here, he has to realize that this is a mistake  
19 because I consider him a smart person.

20           And we have to -- we have to put  
21 our thoughts together and say we can't abuse the  
22 families of the victims here because they are  
23 American heroes. Those people whose names are  
24 going to appear here weren't members of the  
25 Armed Forces, they weren't members of any

1 organization. They just were parents, mothers,  
2 fathers, children, who went to work that went to  
3 do what Americans know how to do best, work hard  
4 to have the country that we have, and they fell  
5 victim of terrorism, criminals.

6           These actions here today is not  
7 helping to unite America. It's not helping to  
8 unite the State of New Jersey. What this action  
9 is doing is dividing us. So Mr. Corzine,  
10 please, unite the families of the victims, unite  
11 the citizens of New Jersey and don't help those  
12 who wanted to divide America.

13           Let's send a message with warm  
14 hearts and cool heads. Forget about politics  
15 because we are human beings. It's not  
16 republican. It's not democrat. It's all  
17 Americans. Together we can look for a solution  
18 for a mistake that was made by the Governor's  
19 office, by the Department of Environmental

20 Protection, environmental protection not to

21 deprive the people of New Jersey to have the

22 most beautiful view in the world. We have to

23 work together.

24 Thank you, Sam Pesin. Thank you

25 to Friends of Liberty State Park. Thank you to

1 each and every one of the people that were here  
2 tonight because you guys are the heart, you are  
3 the ones that is going to make what we do here a  
4 success.

5           The elected officials have to  
6 listen to the people. We live in democracy;  
7 however, this place wasn't put here in a  
8 democratic way. They never went to the planning  
9 board. And they never went to the zoning  
10 department. They never consulted with anybody  
11 in local or county government. They just came  
12 and did this.

13           But we can -- please, we can't  
14 attack the families. The families have all the  
15 rights to have all the monuments in all the  
16 sacred places where they can meditate, pray and  
17 think about the people they love. Those  
18 families are part of our country. Those  
19 families has to be admired by us. But those

20 families, I'm pretty sure, will understand what

21 we're talking about here tonight.

22           If we unite and we stick

23 together, we going to accomplish what we want to

24 accomplish; and it's to have a decent, sacred

25 place where we can meditate for the victims with

1 the view that is pride to the United States.

2           Mr. Corzine, I know you have to  
3 understand what we talking about here; and you  
4 have your decision in your hands. It's up to  
5 you to listen to the people of New Jersey. God  
6 bless you. God bless America. And thank you  
7 very much.

8           MR. PESIN: That was one of -- we  
9 have a couple more people to speak. Mr. Jose  
10 Arango, Chair of the Republican Party, that  
11 was -- of all the moving speeches, that was one  
12 of the more moving and eloquent speeches of the  
13 evening, from your heart. And we thank you.  
14 And everything you said rings true. And I am so  
15 glad that Tracey, the stenographer, is here  
16 because these are important words for -- for --  
17 really, for history and hopefully for the  
18 Governor and people in Trenton to read.

19           So we have someone named Joe from

20 the marina here. And also I want to --

21 preceding Jose Arango, his wife, Mary Ann

22 Kelleher, also said some very important words.

23 And toward the end of the night -- right now I

24 want to say again thanks to the elected

25 officials, Mayor Jerramiah Healy and Lou Manzo,

1 Freeholder Bill O'Dea, Councilman Lipski, who  
2 supports us on this issue.

3           And call your elected officials,  
4 as more elected officials, republican and  
5 democrat, work together to get Governor Corzine  
6 to change this mistake. And so thank you for  
7 coming. And Joe is coming up now. Come on,  
8 Joe. And anyone else.

9           And we thank the City of Jersey  
10 City for being so generous with giving us the  
11 sound and the chairs and the podium. So Jersey  
12 City has been a tremendous, tremendous support.  
13 Very proud to be a resident of Jersey City.

14           And we have a few petitions over  
15 here, if you want to pick up and take home.

16           And is there anyone else who  
17 wants to speak besides Joe? I know our  
18 stenographer is probably ready for a break and  
19 chair people have arrived, but we are glad Joe

20 is speaking. Anyone else? Anybody besides Joe?

21 Please come up. Okay, Joe.

22 MR. COYLE: Good evening,

23 everyone. Joe Coyle. I live in Edison. I am a

24 fellow democrat. I have a boat along the way

25 here, and I have a jet ski. I have been

1 photographing the harbor for a long time, I  
2 think about three years now. And I really enjoy  
3 photographing the harbor here. I have taken  
4 photographs of many different boats with this  
5 background, and it's been a pleasure to come  
6 down here and take photographs of different  
7 boats that come and the ships that sail through  
8 here. A lot of them you can see from a  
9 distance, and you can run up to the wall and  
10 hope to catch them before they go by.

11           Not only have -- you know, I do  
12 spend time in the harbor; but I am a former  
13 volunteer at 9/11. On the day I was at Lincoln  
14 Harbor Yacht Club, I arrived there about 9:15 in  
15 the morning. My friend and I had a tender, and  
16 we shot over to 9/11 to help out. We took  
17 people from the Circle Line Ferries and helped  
18 displaced commuters escape to the Meadowlands.

19           Few days -- the following day I

20 was volunteering at Jersey City bringing

21 supplies over, and I was supervisor of supplies

22 for the next four days. I worked with about 67

23 firemen, and I also worked with the National

24 Guard. We set up tents because on Thursday it

25 was raining and all of our supplies were getting

1 wet.

2           If there is anybody here, I  
3 certainly believe there should be something for  
4 the victims. I volunteered there. I saw a lot  
5 there from Wednesday to Saturday. And there is  
6 no question I'd want something. And it's just  
7 the placement of where you put things. And this  
8 is not the place.

9           I enjoy looking at this view. I  
10 think this is a hidden gem in New Jersey to come  
11 down to enjoy. It's free. Where can you go for  
12 free and see views like this? I go to the  
13 restaurant here; and from the restaurant,  
14 sitting down for about 6 or \$7, you can have a  
15 drink and enjoy this great view on some couches  
16 there. And it's wonderful here at the Liberty  
17 State Park Restaurant.

18           I couldn't see this being here  
19 and not just destroying my view. I hope that

20 the committee for this project reviews it.

21           Being also involved in

22 development, this is not my first project I have

23 seen done. And there are steps and procedures

24 to build things like this. I'm certain even the

25 people who are from 9/11, the victims, would

1 like to have a say of where it should be placed  
2 and share the understanding with people who  
3 spent years in this park keeping it clean. And  
4 I appreciate that.

5 I am an Edison resident. I am  
6 not a Jersey City resident; but boy, I do get  
7 the pleasure coming down here. Also having a  
8 house in Long Beach Island, I don't spend a day  
9 there. I come here because I love it so much.  
10 My brothers think I'm crazy, but I love Jersey  
11 City. I love this view here. And I enjoy it.  
12 I hope they consider putting it someplace else.  
13 Being a friend of Corzine and being a democrat,  
14 I'm certain he will consider reviewing it. And  
15 I hope he does because it is important, and I  
16 would not want it here. Thank you very much for  
17 doing this today.

18 MR. PESIN: We thank Jim O'Connor,  
19 the Liberty Yacht Club and other boaters who

20 live here and at the park. This is their home.

21 We come here very often for concerts and

22 picnics, but the people who have boats here are

23 here lot of the time. And they know how wrong

24 this is.

25           And before Steve Latham speaks I

1 I want to say another thing. We are losing,  
2 besides the Plaza and the view, is the breeze.  
3 We are getting a little breeze, I guess from the  
4 north; but we used to have those wonderful  
5 breezes off the river. So the hill blocks that  
6 great natural resource of the breezes that we  
7 come down to the park for.

8           So I want to introduce Steve  
9 Latham, who is president of the Reservoir  
10 Preservation Alliance, who is tremendous leader  
11 trying to save the important lake, the natural  
12 lake up in the Heights. And he will be here, if  
13 you want to talk to him about that. But he  
14 represents -- Michael, no sound. Mike went off.  
15 Microphone went off. Is the generator -- oh, I  
16 touched the switch. Sorry. What do I know  
17 about mikes?

18           All right. We are almost done,  
19 everybody. I was saying we lost the breeze, in

20 addition to losing our Plaza. And Steve Latham,

21 who cares about the park very much, is here to

22 speak. So please give -- let's give our last

23 patience, please, for Steve Latham.

24           MR. LATHAM: Thank you. A lot of

25 great things have been said here, so I won't say

1 that much. Everyone has gone over the obvious  
2 things here. Up at the Jersey City Heights we  
3 have four walls that go around the reservoir and  
4 they shield the reservoir from the City and they  
5 create a special place inside. Here we have a  
6 wall that's shielding us from our view, from the  
7 beautiful view that you have here, the great  
8 view of New York City, which is what this park  
9 is all about.

10           I brought my parents here in the  
11 past; and we came, took pictures of the  
12 cobblestone roadway that looked like it went  
13 straight into Manhattan, like a beautiful walk.  
14 Now it looks like it's going to go straight into  
15 this big -- this obstruction. I know everyone  
16 has said all these things and lot of great  
17 things. And I hope -- I know the right thing is  
18 going to happen. I know that people care and  
19 you -- everyone here cares and it's going -- the

20 right thing will happen. And so what's -- let's

21 keep pushing until the right thing does happen.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. PESIN: We will keep pushing.

24 If we need to, we'll -- I think we will plan to

25 have a public meeting, perhaps on a Saturday,

1 later in September, so lot of the people are out  
2 of town in the middle of August can get to speak  
3 on this.

4           So we ask the Governor, don't  
5 rush this. Someone said one of the DEP people  
6 seem to indicate that they want to fast track  
7 this and just -- they know people don't like it;  
8 but they're probably thinking, "Well, that's  
9 tough. Some people don't like it, but we're  
10 going to do it because we want to get it done."  
11 But we are doing something, as some people said,  
12 for generations to come. It should be done  
13 right. And we love Liberty Park. And this --  
14 and we love America. And this was one of the  
15 best views in America.

16           So I want to thank you for  
17 coming. The chair people are here. And I will  
18 end with saying please get in touch with  
19 Governor Corzine. Let's do all we can. And

20 thank you for showing your love of Liberty Park

21 tonight. And we thank Tracey, the stenographer.

22 We thank -- it's so important. Let's thank

23 Tracey, the stenographer, who is doing this

24 important job, for doing this important job.

25 And thank you. Good night. God bless Liberty

1 State Park.

2 (Whereupon, the proceeding is

3 concluded at 9:00 p.m.)

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1           C E R T I F I C A T E

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3     I, TRACEY R. SZCZUBELEK, a Certified Shorthand

4 Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New

5 Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is

6 a true and accurate transcript of the

7 stenographic notes as taken by and before me, on

8 the date and place hereinbefore set forth.

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19           TRACEY R. SZCZUBELEK, C.S.R.

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