

THE FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK

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May 1, 2010

Dear Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah Healy,

Perhaps you personally don't know about this obscene proposal but whomever has proposed it to Formula 1 has no clue about the true purposes of LSP or about the park's history of battles to protect public access. LSP is not a city property to rent out for the weekend and take away from public users who need it more than ever for the quality of their lives. LSP is a park for the people and is not a commercial venue. It's arrogant for anyone to consider this use for our green haven.

For JC to offer up LSP for this Grand Prix race car track event is outrageous and will be overwhelmingly unpopular. At least with All Points West and Air Race, the south, north and western sides of LSP are open to cars all day. This is one of the worst ideas Friends has heard of and we will need to fight against this publicly. There will be statewide opposition. This proposal confiscates the park from park users and is basically renting out our priceless urban waterfront public park for a weekend when hard-working families need and deserve the park. Please abandon this terrible proposal. Not all private events are inherently bad but this one is because of the closing of all park roads and the nature of an auto race in a public park. Building a track throughout the park is an insane idea and is not compatible with the established plans for LSP.

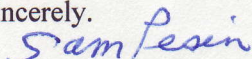
LSP should not be turned into a Grand Prix car race track. There is zero chance that the Friends and other park users will support it. LSP should not be seen as a private venue to rent out to get some local hotel and restaurant business. We've supported air race but not this car race. Besides being a horrible idea of closing park roads and closing most or all of the park for the event, this would set a terrible precedent for promoters to think they can confiscate LSP for anything and will open the door for other inappropriate assaults on public access to LSP. I'm sure you'd agree that NYC's Mayor or public would never approve a Grand Prix race car event in Central Park.

We all need to work together to protect LSP and only support appropriate uses which can include periodic, admission fee events, but not one that will build a track throughout the park. One item in this ludicrous proposal is that a dollar from every ticket go to rebuilt the Terminal's Train Sheds. That is a \$40 million project so ticket sales would be only a tiny drop in the bucket and no amount of money would make this acceptable.

I urge you to put the kibosh on the wrong-headed plan that will end up hurting Jersey City because of the inevitable controversy and will show a lack of respect for public access to our beloved park behind Lady Liberty. People come to LSP to seek a haven, oasis, refuge and sanctuary and such a Grand Prix racing event that needs all park roads is contrary to the spirit and essence of an urban open space park.

The Friends of LSP are very grateful for your leadership in the cause of saving the NYC skyline views and for your caring about the need for parks for people's lives. We hope you will reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,



Sam Pesin, president on behalf of The Friends Board of Trustees