

Letter to Editor of Hudson Reporter  
August 12, 2009

**All Points West Music and Arts Festival is worthwhile event for LSP.  
The grass will be restored at LSP after music festival.**

The second All Points West Music and Arts Festival held from July 31 through August 2 at Liberty State Park was a very positive event for LSP and also Jersey City. It is very upsetting for everyone who cares about LSP that the spring and summer rains and the 6 inches of rain in the week of the festival led to the temporary damage to the lawn between Liberty Walk and Freedom Way. I have full faith that the grass will be fully restored just as the lawn came back to normal after past droughts.

The producers, Liberty Event Management, based for years at the park's marina, and Highline Ballroom of NYC (which includes B.B. Kings and Blue Note clubs) with their national partner, AEG Live, have a contractual responsibility to leave the park at least as good as they found it; and they also feel a professional obligation and ethical commitment to LSP so that they will act with high standards, as they have with all other aspects of the festival.

Last year, there were no problems or complaints about the first APW because there hadn't been rainy weather. These producers will do the best job possible to uphold their reputations and integrity.

APW brought positive national attention to LSP and Jersey City with a festival featuring famous and up and coming bands for the enjoyment of young music lovers from our region (and many other states) and exposed thousands of new people to LSP, and I feel that many will come back to enjoy the park with their family and friends.

The Friends have supported this event because it promotes the park, because there is a heavy emphasis on mass transit with ferries and light rail use by the majority of attendees, and because it is a part-fundraiser for LSP itself and for The Friends of LSP. The Friends, an all volunteer group and a NJDEP "officially recognized friends organization" has worked hard to carry out our mission for our 21 years of preserving, protecting, conserving and promoting LSP.

Last year, we funded tens of thousands of dollars of trees and flowers and are saving funds for park amenities. We have spearheaded many grassroots battles and have helped defeat the golf course, commercial amphitheater and waterpark plans, have helped to terminate LSP's Development Corporation, and are suing the state to stop the NYC skyline view-blocking memorial which includes the 10 ft hill with its planned two walls, 30 ft high by 200 ft long, from being built where the Terminal Public Plaza was.

With the state broke and with LSP having many improvement needs, it seems to be a sensible and worthwhile idea to have very periodic major weekend events. We will be working with the state to finalize a draft special events policy which we feel should limit

such part-fundraiser events to two or at most three events a year. LSP and Trenton officials and the Friends will work together to ensure that the park's best interests are protected and that our great public space behind Lady Liberty never is turned into a commercial "venue". The park is for the people's enjoyment throughout the year and we will be forever vigilant in preventing exploitation and abuse of our beloved park.

Supporting APW last year and this, came after very careful evaluation and discussions with the park and the producers, especially with Liberty Event Management (LEM) whom we asked four years ago to have a part-fundraising concert in honor of LSP's 30th birthday in 2006. LEM has ensured the Friends input and worked hard with its other partners for APW to set a positive precedent for any future events. Another worthwhile feature of APW is LEM's facilitating a Friends' "environmental village" for outreach to festival go-ers with about 9 groups from around our state and also with Art House Productions of Jersey City and a Census and Liberty Science Center table.

So APW was an uplifting cultural event for those attending despite the mud, didn't negatively impact the nearby neighborhoods, raised some funds to benefit LSP, and brought helpful favorable attention to LSP and Jersey City. The negative impact on the lawn will be fixed effectively and I hope everyone comes out to enjoy our urban waterfront park in the coming months and years. God bless LSP !

Sam Pesin,  
president of The Friends of LSP