

*Excerpt from Jersey City Reporter story*  
**Friends of Liberty State Park oppose the race track**

The Friends of Liberty State Park said the city needs to get an environmental impact study for the proposed project and hold public hearings.

We feel the city and others in the region may be opposed or in favor of various elements, said Sam Pesin, president of The Friends of Liberty State Park. The stadium is an obscene, insane and destructive proposal, and we're here to protect the park against the negative impacts we see as a result of the traffic. We are glad that the mayor has expressed some reservations about the stadium and hopes the mayor will continue to focus on this.

Pesin said the Friends of Liberty Park are not opposed to innovative ideas and in fact gave approval to an idea proposed by Gov. Christopher Christie that would have allowed use of the historic train station after hours for a variety of activities such as wedding receptions and fundraisers, run by private management. While the idea did not materialize, Pesin said the board did not have objections to it because the park and first floor of the building remained open to the public during the day.

People have said they want a free park with green space behind the Statue of Liberty, Pesin said.

Pesin said there have been other events like the recent Fourth of July celebrations that brought thousands of people into the park.

Many people walked in, some came on bicycles, but it was wonderful in showing the tremendous diversity of the area, Pesin said. This is what the park is for.