

THE FRIENDS OF LIBERTY STATE PARK

Press Release

from Friends of LSP president Sam Pesin, July 15,
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All supporters of a free public park behind Lady Liberty will be relieved to read about Paul Fireman claiming to give up his relentless self-serving false narrative about the park and his goal of privatization and destroying the Caven Point natural preserve and urban environmental education resource to relocate private golf course holes closer to the bay for a better view for his millionaire members.

Paul Fireman is in a long line of would-be privatizers who have met with consistent, overwhelming opposition in 44 years of grassroots battles. Over 85 groups are in the coalition to pass the LSP Protection Act, and over 18,000 citizens have signed an online petition without any effort on our part to engage the public during the pandemic.

Most importantly, the LSP Protection Act is needed now more than ever to end privatization assaults on LSP. We urge the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate President to post the legislation championed by Senators Brian Stack and Loretta Weinberg and Assemblypersons Raj Mukherji and Angela McKnight so that the Governor may sign the essential and landmark law to protect, once and for all, our urban, state and national treasure behind Lady Liberty. Without the Protection Act, Paul Fireman will come roaring back with his disinformation, political contributions, and lobbyists under a new governor for his ultimate goal of a land grab of Caven Point.

Minority communities and all park visitors would of course benefit from park improvements including active recreational offerings (which our group has always supported and the NJDEP, which manages LSP, is open to collaborating on) and the Protection Act requires comprehensive public participation.

If Paul Fireman actually cares about minority communities in Jersey City and about LSP, we hope his offers of philanthropy and a First Tee golf academy will not go the way of his privatization proposal now that no quid pro quo is attached by way of seizing public parkland.

The Protection Act must become law to once and for protect this priceless park, and establish a peaceful and positive era of collaboration with the public, elected officials and the NJDEP to make this great park even better!

We thank all park supporters who have fought once again against LSP privatization plans, including the main sponsors of the Act (Asm Raj Mukherji, Asw Angela McKnight, Asm Nick Chiaravalloti and Sen Stack and Sen Weinberg) We also thank the media for their news coverage and the editorials which informed the public about Paul Fireman's privatization land grab of Caven Point. Thank God for the People advocating for a free park behind Lady Liberty and thanks for our nation's free press!

It is a no-brainer to protect LSP for future generations as a free park behind Lady Liberty.