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Jersey City to Challenge Governor Christie's Proposed Development of Liberty State Park

The Fulop Administration to Pursue Legal Options Against Trenton's Proposed 'Millionaire's Marina'

JERSEY CITY-- **Mayor Steven M. Fulop** announced today that the administration will enter into an agreement with Riker Danzig, Scherer, Hyland, & Perretti, LLP to provide legal services in connection with protecting Liberty State Park against the development of a new marina. The proposed lease agreement between marina operators Suntex Marinas and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection is for 45-acres of land on the southern end of the public park, including a mile stretch of waterfront which will be transformed from quiet open space to a parking lot for 300 boats.

“Once again, the Christie Administration has proven their utter disregard for the importance of public parks in New Jersey,” said Mayor Fulop. “This development is one that would drastically change the landscape of one of the state’s best public parks, and to add insult to injury, has progressed up until this point behind closed doors. This lack of integrity has become business as usual, and this time, one of our best public assets will suffer unless we as a city fight back.”

The New Jersey based firm has been hired to pursue legal options against the proposed marina, citing a misalignment between the proposed use and the original purpose of the public park, as well as safety concerns for residents and local wildlife alike.

“We are immensely grateful to Mayor Fulop for delivering the legal resources necessary to protect the southside of Liberty State Park for the public to continue to picnic, fish, walk and enjoy unblemished views of the New York Harbor freely,” said Greg Remaud, Deputy Director of the NY/NJ Baykeeper.

The recently released lease-agreement has provided further details of a development that has lead residents and officials to voice strong opposition to this development. On December 2nd, Mayor Fulop joined the Friends of Liberty State Park to protest against the proposal.

“The Friends of Liberty State Park and all supporters of the park as a local, state, and national treasure with open space and priceless open vistas, are very grateful to the Fulop Administration for his determination and dedication in stopping this destructive marina plan from going forward,” said Sam Pesin, president of the Friends of Liberty State Park and vocal advocate of preserving the park.

This is not the first instance in which Mayor Fulop has adamantly opposed a proposed development project that has threatened Liberty State Park. Last year, the DEP received major pushback from residents, visitors and officials, including Mayor Fulop, regarding a proposed development that would have allowed commercial barges to be installed on the Hudson River adjacent to Liberty State Park. After encouraging hundreds of New Jersey residents to publicly comment on the barge proposal that would reduce the quality of the park to visitors, the big was withdrawn, with the intention to find a more suitable location.

All media inquiries should be directed to Hannah Peterson at HPeterson@jcnj.org or 732-881-1209.