



Board of Representatives
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, Ct. 06901

April 5, 2018

Representatives:

The membership of the Cove Neighborhood Association has asked me to write to you as part of the Public Hearing comments involved in the Budget process. As many of you know the Cove Neighborhood envelops Cove Island Park, Cummings Park and West Beach. This includes Districts 1, 4 and 8.

Many of our residents in the Cove have fond feelings for these City Parks that in some cases have been formed over multiple generations.

It has become worrisome to many that this year's budget shows a cut to the Parks Police program and a request of \$300,000.00 for an Ambassador program. We remember when Parks Police were a regular presence in our parks and a feeling of safety greeted us upon our visits. Stamford may be considered a safe city by many standards, but safety is not only measured by crime report statistics. A feeling of safety is established by many small and difficult to measure indices. Needless to say, the primary source of this safe feeling is reinforced in the presence of a uniformed officer who understands what can and cannot be done in our Parks.

We really do not feel that an Ambassador can instill that same feeling since any serious matters they encounter could not be handled by them and they would simply be calling for a uniformed officer to deal with the problem.

For this reason, we respectfully request you eliminate the Mayor's request for the \$300,000.00 Ambassador Program.

This amount of money could go a long way toward bringing the Parks Police back up to numbers that would increase the sense of safety in our parks that we feel is so important.

Thank You

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