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Stamford Board of Representatives
888 Washington Blvd.
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Representatives:

At the most recent Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on March 28, 2018 the issue of Parks Police was discussed. Our Policy has long held that we would continue to support a strong Parks Police Program for Stamford's 65 Parks and advocate whenever possible for an increase in their ranks. As you have noticed in this year's Budget request the Mayor has cut funding for the third Parks Police Officer that we lost when Frank Greene passed away last year. In its place the Mayor is funding the remaining two officers and has requested \$300,000.00 for a Parks Ambassador Program.

Some of us have met with Administration Officials and have learned nothing about how this Ambassador Program would be of any benefit. At Mr. Pollard's presentation to the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Board of Representatives on March 20, 2018 it was simply stated "that the program would be fleshed out after the money was approved". This really is not an adequate solution in a matter as important as Park Security and Public Safety.

For that reason, we feel it is incumbent upon you to cut the \$300,000.00 request for Park Ambassadors. We feel that this money would be better spent at this time on increasing the Parks Police Program and we look forward to working with you to that end.

At some point in time an Ambassador Program may have some benefits, however, this should not be considered at the expense of a truly effective Parks Police Program.

Sincerely,

David Winston
Chairman
Parks & Recreation Commission

