

A BETTER HOBOKEN:

Let's Create a Park, Not a Problem

We began **A Better Hoboken** last year to gather ideas, big and small, about improving the community's quality of life. We received lots of suggestions. **More parks** was one of the recommendations.

So, with our family's local roots going back to the middle of the last century, we believe that offering the city the chance to develop a park project at the southwest entrance to the city, next to our Academy offices, would be a cinch. We also thought that giving the park away for free, as part of a very modest development to improve the dreary streetscape entering the city, would be a lead-pipe cinch.

The City Administration idly hemmed and hawed about the offer for a year. The park could have been ready to use this summer. Now, in an election year, city officials are turning that lead-pipe cinch into a lead-pipe bludgeoning. They are trying to use eminent domain on a long-time neighbor.

Alternative facts might really apply to the city's tortured logic in attempting to do so. Incredibly, their argument goes something like this:

To avoid getting a park they could have had for free – and sooner than later – city officials now would rather devise a process that:

- Is often discredited by courts and urban planners alike;
- Is costly to taxpayers;
- Is a full employment act for the favored lawyers who will be chosen to burn up billing hours;
- Is more than likely to end up in litigation deadlock;
- Will most certainly delay a park for many, many years, if not kill it.

Academy Bus, and the neighborhood, are facing the reality of seeing a good deed get punished!

Nonetheless, we still invite the parties to return to common sense discussion, act like true neighbors, and arrive at a less taxing and hostile solution about the park. Please encourage all the parties to talk it over – before bulldozing it over!

Sincerely,



Francis Tedesco
President and CEO
Academy Bus



We invite you to continue sharing your perspective. You can converse with us at www.academybus.com/abetterhoboken.