

TIFFANY MARTIN HAMILTON
MAYOR



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December 20, 2017

Tracy Delaney
City Clerk
City of Hudson
520 Warren Street
Hudson, NY 12534

2017 DEC 20 AM 11:41
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
HUDSON, NEW YORK

FILED

Re: Veto of Resolution Number 15, Dated December 19, 2017, A Resolution Opposing the Construction of a Dog Park at Charles Williams Park

On Tuesday, December 19, 2017, the Common Council approved a resolution recommending that a dog park not be constructed in Charles Williams Park. As residents of Hudson know, many in the community have lobbied for more than a decade to have a dog park established in Hudson. Several years ago, a GoFundMe campaign was launched to raise funds for construction of a dog park, but the then City Administration was not receptive or supportive. Additional funds were raised this year to ensure that a safe park of ample size could be constructed.

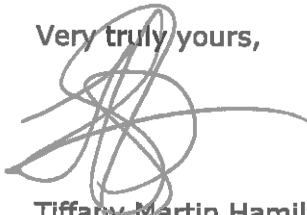
In October of this year, after evaluating every available green space owned by the City of Hudson, I, in consultation with others, determined that the Charles Williams Park was the most logical location for a dog park based on, amongst other things, the following factors:

- Charles Williams Park has the most available green space of any park within the City limits;
- The original design for Charles Williams Park contemplates the inclusion of a fenced-in area for dogs;
- Charles Williams Park is markedly underutilized by the majority of Hudson's citizens;
- Residents of Mill Street have raised the issue of nefarious activities taking place in the park;
- Increased use of Charles Williams Park will act as deterrent for those wishing to use the park for illicit activities;
- There is parking available at the end of Mill Street near the entrance to Dugway Road, as well as available street parking (all homes have driveways);
- As with all other streets in the City, Mill Street is a public thoroughfare, open to pedestrian and vehicular traffic;
- While there can be a conversation with residents regarding dog park rules and any safety concerns, it is important to bear in mind that Charles Williams Park is a public amenity funded by all of Hudson's taxpayers, and full use and enjoyment of the park should be encouraged;

- In the City's densely-populated two square miles, every resident experiences pedestrian and vehicular traffic - including in some areas heavy truck traffic - passing by their homes, and is surrounded by other homes, businesses, parks, schools, churches, healthcare facilities, etc.
- As has been documented in countless studies, dog parks provide many social benefits to communities; and
- Roughly \$14,000 of private funds have been raised specifically to construct a dog park, providing the community with a highly desired amenity at no cost to the taxpayers (the park will continue to be mowed, as it is now, by DPW).

Given this information, I hereby veto Resolution Number 15, passed by the Common Council on December 19, 2017. I am available should any members of the Common Council wish to further discuss.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany Martin Hamilton', written over a circular stamp or seal.

Tiffany Martin Hamilton
Mayor