

**DATE:** October 21, 2013  
**TO:** Santa Monica City Council  
**FROM:** Ocean Park Association and Friends of Sunset Park  
**RE:** Commercial Fitness at City Parks  
**CC:** City Manager, City Attorney, and Planning Director

The Board of Directors of the Ocean Park Association is writing to express our concerns with the first vote on October 15, 2013 to adopt an Ordinance that would allow commercial fitness instruction, classes and camps in many of the city parks for a one-year trial. It is our opinion that all parks, beaches and public areas should not be used for commercial purposes except by special permit for a limited time use that is in the public interest.

We are asking you to reconsider your decision because city parks are dedicated to the residents, workers and visitors who use the parks for various forms of recreation. Santa Monica has a very low ratio of parks to residents and opening our parks for commercial uses puts too great a strain on a precious and scarce resource.

Other business interests are not allowed access to our public resources. Allowing commercial interests to exclusively occupy city parks in “commercial training zones” during daylight hours seems to us special interest use. Are Santa Monica taxpayers who maintain and fund new parks expected to make way for commercial business interests in our parks that are supposed to be open to all?

Please reconsider your decision and maintain our precious parks for the enjoyment of all.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors of the Ocean Park Association

The Board of Directors of Friends of Sunset Park