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February 20, 2015

Ms. Sherri Lightner, Chair, Charter Review Committee
San Diego City Council
City Administration Building
202 "C" Street
San Diego, Ca 92101

Subject: Charter Section 55

Dear Ms. Lightner:

The Protect Our Communities foundation urges the Charter Review Committee to propose no changes to Charter Section 55 that in any way weaken the current protection of dedicated City park land from commercial and other exploitation.

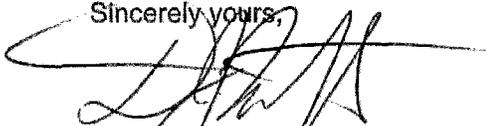
As you know, Charter Section 55 stipulates that dedicated City park land "shall not be used for any but park [or] recreation... purposes." This language is clearly intended to preserve such publically owned and intentionally preserved land from development and commercial use.

Despite this clear intent and protection in our Charter, this City Council has allowed systematic leasing of our citizen's dedicated park land to private corporations for uses such as wireless communication facilities. For instance, Adams Ave., Balboa, Carmel Valley, Mission Trails and Oak Park along with many other city parks have been used to allow commercial cell towers in their midst, a clear abridgement of the City Charter.

Both our City Charter and common sense tells us that our parks should be for recreation, not for rent. We ask the Council not to further disregard the expressed intent of Charter Section 55 and the people of San Diego. We urge you not to propose or support any change to Charter Section 55 that would in any way suggest, endorse, or permit any commercial or other non-recreational use of our City park land.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely yours,


Denis Trafecant
President

cc: Councilmember Chris Cate
Councilmember Mark Kersey
Councilmember Marti Emerald
Councilmember Lorie Zapf
Councilmember Todd Gloria
Councilmember Myrtle Cole
Councilmember Scott Sherman
Hon. Kevin Faulconer
Mr. Steve Hadley