



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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July 2, 2019

Mr. Delano Hunter  
Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
1250 U Street NW, 2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20009  
[delano.hunter@dc.gov](mailto:delano.hunter@dc.gov)

### RE: Jelleff Field Contract

Dear Director Hunter,

On July 1, 2019 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by six commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (5-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E strongly supports the availability of public fields in Washington, DC and ensuring that those fields can be used by as many District residents, especially children, as possible. The neighborhood recognizes that safe and properly-scaled playing fields in Georgetown – and across the city – are limited and in high demand. Public and private schools and sports leagues often find it very difficult to find green space to practice field sports and host competitions. The purchase by the city of the Jelleff Boys & Girls Club property in Georgetown marked a significant effort by the DC Government to preserve this important facility as a green space dedicated to recreational use for the benefit of the community.

In late 2009, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) entered into a Use Easement and Maintenance Agreement with a private school that gave the school the exclusive right to use the Jelleff Recreation Center field during most of the highest demand hours in the late summer, spring, and fall.

Under the agreement, beginning on June 30th, 2019, the school has the right to request that DPR extend the exclusive use agreement for an additional nine years, ending on June 29, 2029. If the school makes such a request, DPR will be required to either consent to or deny the requested extension within thirty days.

### COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1    Joe Gibbons, District 2    Rick Murphy, District 3  
Anna Landre, District 4    Lisa Palmer, District 5    Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6  
Elizabeth Miller, District 7    Matias Burdman, District 8

ANC 2E thanks DPR for hosting a community meeting in May of 2019 to hear from interested parties about their needs. At this meeting the community expressed interest in understanding the criteria that DPR will use for evaluating how the Jelleff Recreation Center field can serve the greatest number of District children. The ANC asks that DPR make public the criteria that will drive its decision making. Should DPR need potential partner(s) to help fund expenses such as field renovation or maintenance or to prioritize the physical education of nearby schools, DPR should be clear to all interested parties.

At the time that the 2009 agreement was negotiated between DPR and the school, ANC 2E strongly objected to the lack of outreach from DPR and the absence of an opportunity for meaningful community involvement while these agreements were being considered. The ANC does not want to see that lack of transparent community involvement repeated in the current instance.

At this time, ANC 2E urges DPR to not extend the Use Easement and Maintenance Agreement in its current form.

ANC 2E also recommends that DPR continues with its current efforts to hold an open and transparent process about how the community can equitably share the Jelleff Recreation Center field, including during the most in-demand hours. The process should be multi-pronged and give all potential user groups – especially schools – an equal opportunity to both provide public input and respond to any partnership(s) sought by DPR. To date, ten schools (public and private) and the Boys & Girls Club have expressed interest in using the Jelleff field during the most in-demand hours.

Overall, transparency regarding use and maintenance of public fields is paramount given that demand in DC for such fields is greater than the supply. At the Jelleff Recreation Center community meeting DPR, for the first time, announced that they are looking into managing Duke Ellington Field, also located in ANC 2E. Subsequently, DPR confirmed this information. Neither the ANC nor neighborhood groups potentially impacted by this change have been contacted about this transfer from the DC Public Schools (DCPS) to DPR. The ANC urges DPR and DCPS to not move any farther toward establishing any new roles and operations regarding Duke Ellington Field until they publicly engage the community, including the Burleith Citizens Association and the Hillandale Homeowners Association, to hear input and ideas.

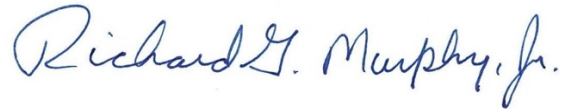
ANC 2E wants, and expects, to partner with DPR and DCPS regarding the community's needs. Both this request regarding transparency for public fields in the ANC, as well as the ANC's recent request to DCPS to hold off on leasing Ward 2 and Ward 3 school properties until documented capacity issues are addressed, reiterate the ANC's overarching belief that ANCs and the community should be asked to participate in how current DC assets can best address the physical and academic education of DC residents.

Given that ANC 2E's next public meeting will not take place until September 3rd, 2019, ANC 2E appoints Commissioners Elizabeth Miller, Joe Gibbons, and Kishan Putta as its

representatives to interact with DPR, DCPS, and such other agencies or officials as may be appropriate with respect to the matters addressed in this resolution.

Commissioners Elizabeth Miller ([2E07@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E07@anc.dc.gov)), Joe Gibbons ([2E02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E02@anc.dc.gov)), and Kishan Putta ([2E01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E01@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Rick Murphy  
Chair, ANC 2E