



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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September 13, 2019

Mr. Delano Hunter
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
1275 First Street NE, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
delano.hunter@dc.gov

RE: Notice of Intent to Transfer Ellington Field from the DC Public Schools to the Department of Parks and Recreation

Dear Director Hunter,

On September 3, 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 (6-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

In July of 2019, ANC 2E voted unanimously on a resolution that said in part:

“In May, 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 change. The ANC urges the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the DC Public Schools (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.”

However, on August 21, 2019, despite this unanimous resolution the Department of Parks and Recreation’s (DPR) Chief of Staff Ely Ross issued, via email to Commissioners Miller, Putta, and Gibbons, a “notice of intent” to move forward and, “work with DCPS to try to acquire administrative jurisdiction over Ellington Field for the purpose of administering use of the field to benefit the greater community through DPR’s permitting process.” Mr. Ross also wrote, “We expect to make a capital request to improve the field and any capital improvements would follow our established procedures to include

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

community engagement meetings. It must be noted, that this administrative control of the field does not include a change in use.”

Regarding holding a community meeting about the implications of this change of administrative jurisdiction, Mr. Ross wrote, “We are still discussing this with the DCPS team, and want to make sure that we are not prematurely engaging the community. It’s important that when we meet with the community, we have information and progress that would be useful to the community. We will let you know when a decision is made by our team.”

The board of the Burleith Citizens Association met in August of 2019 and passed resolutions stating:

- a. Public schools should get priority for usage at Ellington Field,
- b. The board is concerned about implications for street parking, and
- c. The board is opposed to lights being installed on the field.

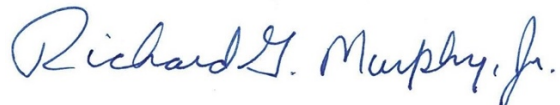
The Hillandale Homeowners Association has raised similar concerns.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2E:

1. Renews its request for a community meeting with DPR, the DC Public Schools (DCPS), and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts before any change of administrative jurisdiction in order to discuss the goals and the implications of a transfer, to ask questions, and to explain the community’s concerns.
2. Renews its request for a current and past usage study of Ellington Field.
3. Requests that DPR explains why it wants administrative jurisdiction, and for what uses and what populations or organizations, before any transfer.
4. Requests that a transparent process of community and stakeholder consultation occurs before any decisions are made about such a transfer.
5. Requests that DPR provides the ANC with great weight in developing any future plans for this neighborhood asset.

Commissioners Kishan Putta (2E01@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E