



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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March 7, 2019

Mr. Delano Hunter
Acting Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
1250 U Street NW, 2nd Floor
Washington, DC 20009
delano.hunter@dc.gov

RE: Use Agreement for Jelleff Field

Dear Acting Director Hunter,

On March 4, 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 those fields be used by as many District residents, especially children, as possible. We all recognize that safe and properly scaled playing fields in Georgetown – and across the city – are limited and in high demand. Public and private schools, sports leagues, and families often find it very difficult to find green space to practice field sports, host competitions, or throw a ball around.

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

Under the Agreement, beginning on June 30, 2019 the School has the right to request that DPR extend the exclusive use arrangement 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 (30) days.

At this time, ANC 2E takes no position with respect to the ultimate outcome. However, ANC 2E believes, as a guiding principle, that DPR should establish a transparent process

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

– within DPR guidelines – that will give all interested user groups an opportunity to have a seat at the table and an equal opportunity to present the needs of their institutions.

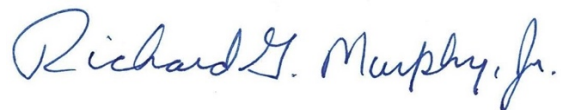
Acknowledging that public-private partnerships can be a useful tool in developing public infrastructure, it is ANC 2E’s opinion that preserving adequate public access to a public facility such as the Field during high demand hours should be a principal consideration in DPR’s decision-making process.

It is worth noting to DPR that the upcoming Jelleff Recreation Center renovation project – currently funded in the FY 2019 budget – has potential impact on the playing field in terms of building design potential and construction.

ANC 2E strongly recommends that DPR host a community meeting open to all interested parties within the next sixty (60) days to gather the input needed to make a fair and informed decision when, and if, the School requests that the exclusive use arrangement be extended pursuant to the terms of the Agreement.

Commissioners Elizabeth Miller (2E07@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@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." in a cursive script.

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E

* Commissioner Lisa Palmer recused herself from voting on this matter.