



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale
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(202) 724-7098 • anc2e@dc.gov

September 10, 2019

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Councilmember Trayon White
Chair, Committee on Recreation and Youth Affairs
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20004
twhite@dccouncil.us

RE: Jelleff Field Contract

Dear Mayor Bowser and Councilmember White,

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 (5-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

Over the course of the last six months, ANC 2E has repeatedly asked the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to conduct a fair and transparent process in deciding whether to extend for an additional nine (9) years the existing ten (10) year no-bid contract that gives a private school exclusive access to the athletic field at the city-owned Jelleff Recreation Center during all after-school and weekend hours in the fall and spring. Despite having no legal obligation to do so because the school had only the right to request an extension (a request that DPR had the unambiguous right to reject in DPR's 'sole discretion') and without providing an opportunity for meaningful public input, DPR has agreed to extend the contract and to thereby give a single private school nearly twenty years of exclusive access to a public resource during the most in-demand hours, to the detriment of students from public schools and other residents of the District of Columbia.

ANC 2E believes that the process that led to this ill-considered decision should be reviewed and, if possible, the decision should be reversed.

If DPR's ill-considered decision were to be reversed, ANC 2E believes that the agency should be directed to conduct a transparent process designed to determine, after truly meaningful public input, whether a private entity should be given any form of control over a public athletic facility. If, which the ANC doubts, a decision is made that

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

something similar to the currently-existing arrangement, which was initiated in 2010, would be in the best interest of the residents of the District of Columbia in 2020, the ANC believes that an open request for proposal (RFP) process that includes the solicitation of bids from all interested parties should be conducted. The ANC also believes, as the ANC has stated in previous resolutions, that with the limited amount of properly-scaled playing fields in northwest DC, the Jelleff field should be shared by as many DC schoolchildren as possible.

With the above as background, ANC 2E respectfully requests that Mayor Muriel Bowser and the DC Council (in particular the ANC would like a hearing to be held by the DC Council's Committee on Recreation and Youth Affairs, which is chaired by Councilmember White) each review the process that resulted in the decision to extend the existing Jelleff Field contract and, if possible, to reverse that decision in order to permit a more transparent decision about future access to this important public resource, keeping in mind the high demand of playing fields and exploding growth of schools in the area.

Commissioners Elizabeth Miller (2E07@anc.dc.gov), Kishan Putta (2E01@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." The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Richard G." on the top line and "Murphy, Jr." on the bottom line.

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E