



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



April 18, 2005

Councilmember Kathy Patterson, Chair
Committee on Education, Libraries, Recreation
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Patterson,

I am writing on behalf of ANC 6A to support Council funding of Lovejoy Park in the fiscal year 2006 budget. At our regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting, with a quorum present, our Commission voted to request the Lovejoy Park funding be restored to the fiscal year 2006 budget. Our Commission has worked alongside the community and Councilmember Ambrose for over four years to organize and promote the construction of this park. In fact, our Commission provided financial support for the park through a \$2,500 grant for site clean-up in 2004.

Through a concerted grassroots effort the community has helped Winters Property turn the school building, closed in the 1980's, into a vibrant residential property. However, the adjacent land, which sits as a littered concrete slab, is designated parkland and thus, cannot be developed by private sources. The Department of Parks and Recreation has let the property sit idle for decades, attracting drug dealers and even being used as a trash dump. It was only after substantial efforts by Councilmember Ambrose, former ANC Commissioner Musante, and the community that Parks and Recreation committed funds for the design phase of the park in FY 2005, and at the same time committed to building the park.

We now learn that the commitment to build Lovejoy Park has not been authorized for funding in the FY 2006 budget. We join with Councilmember Ambrose's efforts to have the Council reestablish funding for this project. The community has worked long and hard, including raising over \$30,000 to see this project completed. However, since it is defined as parkland under the jurisdiction of DC government, this property will continue to sit as an unproductive eyesore and continue to be a beacon for nefarious behavior unless the city contributes its share to fund the restoration of the area to a true parkland. If there is anything our Commission can do in the matter, please feel free to contact me or Commissioner Mary Beatty at (202) 546-4196 or by email at mbeatty6a05@verizon.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Fengler, Chair
(202) 423-8868
fengler6a02@yahoo.com