



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



June 20, 2006

Marcus Ellis
Department of Parks and Recreation
Government of the District of Columbia
640 10th Street NE
Washington, DC 20002

Mr. Ellis:

At our regularly scheduled public meeting on June 8, 2006, and with a quorum present, our Commission voted unanimously to request that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) prepare a comprehensive plan of public safety strategies associated with the Rosedale Recreation Center. Through a citywide initiative, the DC government will spend millions of dollars to improve the physical infrastructure of this recreation center with the goal of supporting increased usability, safety, and neighborhood livability.

We appreciate your continued efforts to work with the community and Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in developing a Plan of Action for Rosedale Recreation. The committee and community members discussed the need for the plan to address specific strategies to ensure public safety of all who use the facility for recreational purposes. During the development of this plan, we encourage collaboration with our Commission's Public Safety Committee, Police Service Area 103, and residents, as well as established business and community groups. Broad collaboration will ensure an innovative and effective plan for meeting the public safety needs of the Rosedale neighborhood community. We hope that DPR will see fit to support the implementation of the plan throughout its various phases in a manner that will support increasing public safety at and around Rosedale Recreation Center.

Developing this plan is a high priority as emphasized by the continuing violent crime and drug trafficking on the premises of Rosedale Recreation Center (example: Sunday, May 7, 2006, in the afternoon there was a non-fatal shooting of three juveniles on the basketball courts). Furthermore, there are regular reports from citizens, MPD, and DPR employees of individuals on the Rosedale Recreation Center grounds fighting and dealing drugs. Although illegal activity occurs after hours, problems continue during the facilities normal hours of operation.

The committee was pleased with the discussion of ways to improve public safety after hours and during normal hours. The following suggestions were discussed supported by the committee as ways to increase safety at and around Rosedale Recreation Center after hours: (1) a wrought-iron fence with entry gates that can be closed and locked at closing as well as a design that deters after-hours entry; and (2) continue to leave all the outside lights on around the facility. The latter of the two was immediately implemented with positive feedback from the community since that time. We strongly suggest that DPR continue to leave the lights on at night.



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Suggestions from MPD, DPR, residents, and committee members were also discussed for improving the safety of those at and around the center during operating hours:

1. Stationing armed guards at Rosedale Recreation Center, which would provide stronger protection of those visiting the center.
2. MPD and the security specialist for DPR do a walkthrough and ascertain the best way(s) to maintain safety (example: cameras).
3. Strengthen the sign-in policy of DPR with the use of identification.
4. Design behavior rules that people agree to when they sign in to the center.

There were many issues discussed with regards to Rosedale Recreation Center – the cleanliness of the facility was among the issues (example: egg on the window/wall that remained for weeks). To continue improving the safety at the Rosedale Recreation Center, we suggest that the supervisors of this facility and the DPR implement the following quickly:

1. An identification system throughout the city (example: the use library cards as the recreation center identification).
2. Draft rules for DPR facilities with input from MPD.
3. Visitors to the recreation center sign in and agree to obey the facility rules and our city's laws to enter and remain in the facility.
4. The use of barring notices for those that violate the rules.
5. DPR work with MPD on a regular basis to ensure public safety is maintained.
6. Install an iron fence around the perimeter of Rosedale Recreation Center.

In close, we respectfully ask that you strongly consider our request. Also, thank you for your continued efforts to improve the recreation centers. If you have any questions, please contact our Public Safety Chair, Ms. Stephanie Nixon, at (412) 612-8881.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Cc: Ms. Kimberley Flowers, Director
Commander Diane Groomes, 1st District