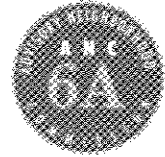


District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



July 2, 2007

Ms. Michelle Rhee, Acting Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools
825 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Ms. Lisa Raymond, Representative for Ward 5 and 6
State Board of Education
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 350 North
Washington, D.C. 20001

Ms. Rhee and Ms. Raymond:

We have not yet received a reply to our letter dated January 4, 2007, in which we directed the District of Columbia Public School administration's attention to the lack of response to our letter dated May 15, 2005. Copies of these letters and the accompanying photographs are enclosed for your reference.

We continue to be concerned about the status of the chain link fencing around Maury Elementary School. As previously noted, the fence is not continuous on the 12th Place NE side. This allows unauthorized access to the playground. As the weather is improving there are increased complaints about the packs of young adults who are congregating at the site and threatening neighbors, from late afternoon into the evening hours.

While we continue to believe that the best solution is a complete, secure, iron fencing around all sides of the playground, we are willing to discuss alternate proposals for eliminating the unacceptable after-hours activities that take place on the playground.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Cc: Councilmember Tommy Wells
Councilmember Kwame R. Brown
Councilmember Carol Schwartz
Councilmember David Catania
Victor Reinoso, Acting Deputy Mayor for Education of the Department of Education
Commander Groomes, First District

Enclosures:

ANC 6A Letter dated January 4, 2007
ANC 6A Letter dated May 15, 2005
ANC 6A Letter dated December 6, 2006



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



January 4, 2007

Dr. Clifford B. Janey
District of Columbia Public Schools
825 North Capitol St. NE
Washington D.C. 20002

Dear Dr. Janey:

We have not yet received a reply to our letter dated May 15, 2005. We continue to be concerned about the status of the chain link fencing around Maury Elementary School. As previously noted, the fence is not continuous on the 12th Place NE side. This allows unauthorized access to the playground. As a result, vandalism and criminal activity continue to be a problem for both the school and its neighbors as the existing chain link can easily be cut through.

We reiterate the need for complete iron fencing around all sides of the school and would appreciate continued attention to the after-hours activities that take place on the playground.

We look forward to your prompt response.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Fengler".

Joseph Fengler, Chair
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A



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



May 25, 2006

Dr. Clifford B. Janey, Superintendent
District of Columbia Public Schools
825 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C., 20002

Dr. Janey:

We appreciate the response to our concerns regarding the safety and security issues at Maury Elementary School. Specifically, encouraging the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) Division of School Security and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to work together to ameliorate these problems. Neighbors have noted that there have been fewer problems in recent months although they are uncertain whether improvement will continue as warm weather approaches.

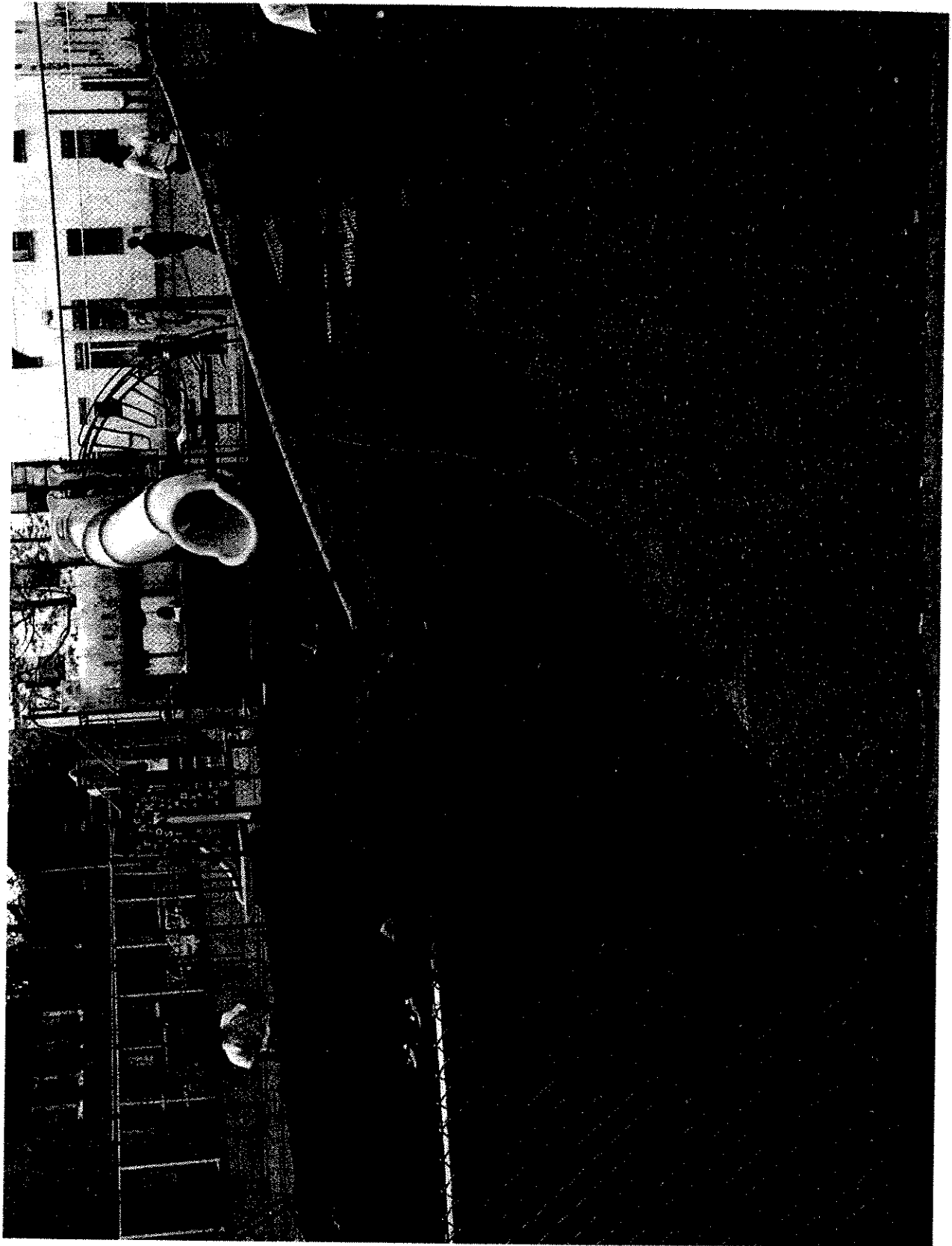
However, concern remains about the status of the chain link fencing around Maury Elementary School. Your letter indicates that the problems with the fence have been resolved. Unfortunately, this is not the case. The fence is not continuous on the 12th Place, NE side. Also, while steps have been taken to secure the gate on the 13th Street, NE side, the cable securing this gate allows enough "play" for slender individuals to slip through. Neighbors report that they frequently witness this activity. As this is difficult to visualize, we are attaching photos and a map documenting the interruptions to the fencing on 12th Place, NE. We are including a photo of one of the many holes that has been snipped into the mesh.

We reiterate the need for complete iron fencing around all sides of the school and would appreciate continued attention to the after-hours activities that take place on the playground.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Tommy Wells, District 3 School Board Member





The picture of the hole (one of many) is just to illustrate how easily the fence is cut through by folks wanting to create "short cuts". There are many, many cheesy repairs to larger holes but it doesn't show up in a photo.





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



December 6, 2005

Clifford B. Janey, Superintendent DCPS
825 North Capitol Street, NE,
Washington, D.C., 20002

Commander Diane Groomes, First District
Metropolitan Police Department
415 4th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Maury Elementary School Public Safety Challenge

Superintendent Janey and Commander Groomes:

At our October 13, 2005, regularly scheduled ANC 6A meeting, we voted unanimously to inform you in writing about the persistent problems at the Maury Elementary School playground. The school is located on the corner of 13th Street and Constitution Ave NE, in Police Service Area 103. Residents have seen ongoing drug activity and prostitution on the school's playground. Condoms, drug paraphernalia, and alcohol containers are found regularly on school grounds. School property has been vandalized, including the new playground equipment, which was installed just a year ago. Stolen cars have also been recovered from within playground fencing. The school staff has found it necessary to police the playground each morning, well before the students arrive, to ensure that the school grounds are safe for children. The site is particularly attractive to the criminal element due to the multiple escape routes afforded by the layout of the playground and the interruptions in the fencing. The fence is chain link and wide openings have been repeatedly been cut into it.

Principal Wilson recently called a community meeting regarding this activity at which Metropolitan Police Department First District officers were present. Videotape of vandals and photographs of graffiti and damaged property have been provided to the police. Sergeant Williams stated that the playground curfew ("closed at dusk") could not be enforced because the school is not completely fenced. He said the police could intervene if they witness a crime in progress but could not ask the loiterers to leave the premises unless the property is completely secured. Mr. Wilson has submitted a requisition for a secure iron fence, such as the one at Miner Elementary School., but it has not yet been approved.

Accordingly, our Commission requests that: (1) a secure iron fence, with gates that can be locked, be installed surrounding the Maury E.S. playground; and (2) the Metropolitan Police Department provide increased attention to the illegal activity on the site and begin to enforce the dusk curfew until such fencing has been installed.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Cc:

Mayor Anthony Williams

Michael Wilson, Principal of Maury

Cornell Brown, DCPS Office of Facilities Mngmt

Edward Reiskin, Deputy Mayor of Public Safety

Peggy Cooper-Cafritz, School Board Chair

Councilmember Sharon Ambrose

Tommy Wells, School Board Representative

Peter Jones, Neighborhood Services

Lieutenant Caldwell, PSA 103

Alphonso Coles, Community Outreach First District

For more information about our Commission, please visit our website at www.anc6a.org