



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 Grooms, First District
Metropolitan Police Department
415 4th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Maury Elementary School Public Safety Challenge

Superintendent Janey and Commander Grooms:

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 Mmgmt
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

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