

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



December 29, 2008

Ms. Ginnie Cooper, Chief Librarian
DC Public Library
901 G Street, NW Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Ms. Cooper,

This letter is sent to you to inform you the meeting of the DC Public Library Board of Trustees conducted on November 19, 2008 at 6:00pm at the Lamond Riggs Neighborhood Library was not properly noticed as required by D.C. law. Specifically, D.C. Official Code 1-309.10(b) requires thirty days written notice (see attachment #1).

The letter sent on November 7, 2008, from your office, provided only nine days notice (excluding weekends) of the meeting held on November 19, 2008 in which the decision to phase out the R.L. Christian Library Kiosk located at 2600 Benning Road, NE was approved by the D.C. Public Library Board of Trustees. Accordingly, as this meeting was not conducted in compliance with DC law, our Commission voted unanimously at our regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on December 11, 2008, to request the decision to phase out the R.L. Christian Library Kiosk on February 6, 2008, be set aside until this topic can be considered at a properly noticed D.C. Public Library Board of Trustees meeting as required by DC Official Code 1-309.

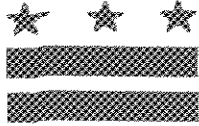
Unfortunately, with a little more than one week of notice, your invitation for our community to attend and comment on this matter was significantly diminished if not completely marginalized. To the studied observer, this trend of insufficient notice has become the norm and not the exception for boards that serve our city. I am attaching a recent report from the Office of the Inspector General that audited the notification procedures of the D.C. Public Charter School Board where a similar systemic problem was uncovered by our Commission.

In close, it is our hope that this was an inadvertent error and not a calculated decision to minimize our ability to provide comment as required by D.C. Law. We look forward to your answer to this request by January 15, 2008. In addition to postal service notification, it would be greatly appreciated if you could send your response to my electronic mail address – fengler6a02@yahoo.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc. Councilmember Wells
Councilmember Brown
Councilmember Cheh
Councilmember Catania
Dan Tangherlini, City Administrator
Gottlieb Simon, Executive Director, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions



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Attachment #1:

D.C. Official Code 1-309.10

1-309.10(b) Thirty days written notice, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays of such District government actions or proposed actions, including (1) the intent to acquire an interest in real property, either through purchase or lease or (2) the intent to change the use of property owned or leased by or on behalf of the government, shall be given by first-class mail to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, each affected Commission, the Commissioner representing a single-member district affected by said actions, and to each affected Ward Councilmember, except where shorter notice on good cause made and published with the notice may be provided or in the case of an emergency and such notice shall be published in the District of Columbia Register.

1-309.10(c)(1) . . . In addition to those notices required in subsection (a) of this section, each agency, board and commission shall, . . . before the formulation of any final policy decision or guideline with respect to grant applications, comprehensive plans, requested or proposed zoning changes, variances, public improvements, licenses, or permits affecting said Commission area, the District budget and city goals and priorities, proposed changes in District government service delivery, and the opening of any proposed facility systems, provide to each affected Commission notice of the proposed action as required by subsection (b) of this section. .



dc public library
check it out!

November 7, 2008

Commissioner Joseph Fengler, Chair
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
P.O. Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013

Commissioner Bill Schultheiss
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A06
P.O. Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013

Re: R.L. Christian Library Kiosk

Dear Chairperson Fengler:

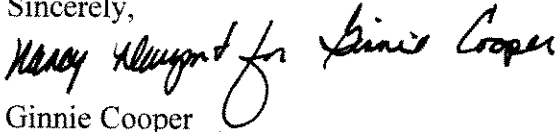
This letter is sent to you to inform you of an upcoming meeting of the DC Public Library Board of Trustees. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Lamond Riggs Neighborhood Library, located at 5401 South Dakota Avenue, NE. At this meeting the DC Public Library (DCPL) Board of Trustees are scheduled to deliberate on the need to phase out the R.L. Christian Library Kiosk located at 2600 Benning Road, NE Washington, D.C. 20002. This action is in response to the deteriorating condition of this facility, the chronic under utilization of services and the small size of the R.L. Christian Library Kiosk limiting its ability to provide more robust services. If it is determined that services will be eliminated at this facility, full library services will continue to be provided to the community at the Northeast Neighborhood Library and the soon to be built Benning Neighborhood Library.

The Advisory Neighborhood Commission 7D is being contacted in the event that you may select to apprise the DCPL Board of Trustees of any concerns or recommendations that you may have regarding the R.L. Christian Library Kiosk. Please feel free to attend the aforementioned DCPL Board of Trustees meeting or you may send your comments or recommendations to:

Archie Williams
Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
District of Columbia Public Library
901 G Street, N.W., 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

In the event, the DCPL Board of Trustees determines to phase out the R.L. Christian Library Kiosk, Advisory neighborhood Commission 6A will be notified pursuant to D.C. Official Code Title 1-309.10 (2001 Ed.).

Sincerely,



Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian

CC: Honorable Vincent Gray
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Honorable Harry Thomas, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Libraries, Parks & Recreation
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Rm. 8
Washington, D.C. 20004

Honorable Tommy Wells
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Suite 107
Washington, D.C. 20004

Commissioner Raphael Marshall
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A01
826 10th Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Commissioner Joseph Fengler
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A02
815 F Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Commissioner David Holmes
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A03
919 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Commissioner Nick Alberti
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A04
1330 N. Carolina Avenue, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Commissioner Mary Beatty
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A05
1228 Duncan Place, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Commissioner Bill Schultheiss
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A06
1225 F Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

Commissioner Gladys Mack
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A07
703 18th Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002



FORWARDED BY CERTIFIED MAIL

December 15, 2008

Commissioner Joseph Fengler, Chair
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
P.O. Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013

Commissioner Bill Schultheiss
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A06
P.O. Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013

Re: R.L. Christian Library Kiosk

Dear Chairperson Fengler:

This letter is sent to you to inform you, pursuant to D.C. Official Code Title §1-309.10 (2001 Ed.), of the decision made at the public meeting of DC Public Library Board of Trustees on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at 6:00 PM at the Lamond Riggs Neighborhood Library, to phase out the R.L. Christian Library Kiosk located at 2600 Benning Road, NE, Washington, D.C 20002 and relocate library services.

This action is a constitutes a change in District government service delivery and a public improvement in response to the following;

- the deteriorating condition of this facility results in chronic maintenance and heating and cooling issues,
- the chronic under utilization of services
- security concerns, and
- the small size of the R. L. Christian Library Kiosk (1400 sq. ft.) severely limits the size of the collection and the number of public access computers, and the programs that can be offered by the library.

All of these factors combine to make it impossible for the Library to offer its full services in any of the libraries that are in kiosk-like buildings and prevent the DCPL from offering the quality library services it envisions for 21st century libraries that our residents deserve.

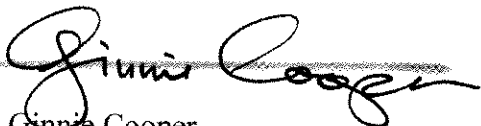
In our letter (attached) to you dated November 7, 2008, we informed you of this aforementioned meeting of the DC Public Library Board of Library Trustees and invited you to attend and/or comment on this matter. Based upon the decision of the DC Public Library Board of Library Trustees this action will take effect on Friday, February 6, 2008.

The library services that were provided by the R.L. Christian Kiosk will be provided to the community at the Benning Interim Library located at 4101 Benning Road, NE (distance 2.43 miles), and at the Northeast Neighborhood Library located at 330 7th Street, NE (distance: 0.96 miles). Our longer range goal is to co-locate the library services provided by the R.L. Christian Kiosk into the planned Rosedale Recreation Center. Additionally, full library services will be provided at the soon to be built Benning Neighborhood Library.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter or the DC Public Library you may direct your questions to:

Archie Williams
Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist
District of Columbia Public Library
901 G Street, N.W., 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001

Sincerely,



Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian

Attachment: R.L. Christian Library Kiosk

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