

Seminary Hill Association, Inc.
2115 Marlboro Drive
Alexandria, VA 22304

June 10, 2010

Dr. Morton Sherman
Superintendent of Schools
Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS)
Administration Building
2000 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Re: Failure to regulate use of the public address system in Parker Gray Stadium

Dear Dr. Sherman:

The Seminary Hill Association (SHA), Inc., is concerned about the excessive sound levels from the public address system in Parker Gray Stadium that impact the quality of life of the neighbors who adjoin the High School. This is a well-known problem that was documented by the City's Planning Commission and City Council in 2004 when they added condition #69 to the Site Plan for the new T. C. Williams High School and created a Community Advisory Committee.

Since 2009, this Committee has failed to function and the public address system problem has plagued neighbors. Regulations previously proposed to control the levels of sound are currently disregarded. Most recently, the sound system was used in violation of Site Plan Condition #69; on the weekend of June 5, the sponsor of rugby games was never made aware of the prohibition against new events using the sound system without prior permission of the Community Advisory Committee.

Since this issue is a violation of legal restrictions codified in the Site Plan, SHA asks that the ACPS:

- Perform on-site testing of the public address system in the Parker Gray Stadium with Code Enforcement that has equipment to measure impacts on nearby neighborhoods. Measure the sound coming into the neighborhoods and determine the acceptable limit for authorized use of the system.
- Restrict access to this public address system to only trained announcers. Penalize announcers who violate the acceptable limits for sound.

- Respect the Site Plan prohibition against new events being permitted to use the sound system at all without the required Committee approval.
- Respond to correspondence sent on this issue; like the enclosed letter sent to you and all members of the School Board a year ago and an email to Mr. Clendaniel on May 2, 2010.
- Activate the Community Advisory Committee and establish a regular membership and meeting schedule to address this and other issues that affect the surrounding community.

If necessary, the ACPS should prohibit the use of this public address system by anyone until the many personnel changes at T. C. Williams are settled and school personnel are in the position to enforce the regulations imposed on this system.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy R. Jennings".

Nancy R. Jennings
President, SHA