



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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October 7, 2020

Mr. Delano Hunter
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
1275 First Street NE, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
delano.hunter@dc.gov

RE: The Jelleff Recreation Center Renovation Project

Dear Director Hunter,

On September 29, 2020 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by seven commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

Jelleff Recreation Center, built in 1953, has never been modernized. Recently-renovated recreation centers around the city are spectacularly beautiful and absolutely brimming with neighbors exercising in the wellness spaces, playing chess and other games with neighbors, and hosting interesting classes and seminars. Our community has never had this type of space and we are truly excited at the opportunity to build something unique. Additionally, during the school year there are 100 public school children attending an after-care program on site every day. They have no outdoor time and are relegated to being indoors in a windowless basement, even on the most beautiful days. A high-quality space for them to study, play, cook, explore, and host competitions is critical.

Since 2018, Jelleff has been budgeted to receive a \$7 million renovation to bring the aging building into ADA compliance and upgrade the HVAC system.

Our community has been advocating for more starting with community meetings in 2018 and 2019 and is working with Councilmember Brooke Pinto and the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the Department of General Services (DGS) for a larger budget.

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Joe Gibbons, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 Matias Burdman, District 8

For FY 2021, which recently began, \$200,000 was budgeted for a feasibility study to better evaluate different options, costs, and timelines. The budget also said, “DPR will submit a copy of the study and its findings to the Council and the Mayor by December 1, 2020.”

It is our understanding that this date has slipped. But, with DC’s FY 2022 budget request season beginning this fall, there is urgency to ensure that the study can assist with the best possible budget request for FY 2022 so that a modernized center could be constructed and opened before 2023, five years after the first community meetings. ANC 2E recently met with DPR and DGS and asked them for community input early and throughout this process.

Therefore, ANC 2E requests that:

- The first community meeting be held by December 1, 2020,
- A survey of the community be conducted by December 15, 2020, and
- A draft of the study's options and estimates be completed by January 15, 2021.

Commissioners Elizabeth Miller (2E03@anc.dc.gov), Kishan Putta (2E01@anc.dc.gov), and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." in a cursive script.

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E