



Mr. Steven Gewirtz  
Dorchester House  
2480 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

April 12, 2006

Dear Steven:

On behalf of Washington Parks & People, Friends of Meridian Hill, and the Josephine Butler Parks Center, I am writing to thank you for the singular commitment that the Dorchester House has made to ongoing support for community park revitalization in the neighborhoods surrounding the Dorchester. Building on years of award-winning leadership investment in green community revitalization by the Dorchester at Meridian Hill, your increased support of \$10,000 per year, tied to the proposed new rental housing on a block long plagued by blight and crime, will help us to leverage the community, volunteer, philanthropic, and government resources needed to accomplish such improvements as the following:

- 1) Rock Creek Access – Enhanced pedestrian connection between the Adams Morgan/Reed-Cooke/Meridian Hill neighborhoods and Rock Creek Park via Walter C. Pierce Community Park, in line with both community plans and historic trail links to Rock Creek – focused on trail improvements, landscape maintenance and restoration, erosion remediation, and natural and cultural interpretive signage and programming. This will rectify the problem that Adams Morgan has lacked any direct official access to Rock Creek, America's 15<sup>th</sup> largest urban park, for 14 years.
- 2) Greenway Link – Advancement of the Washington Ridge Crossing Escarpment Trail, connecting with the National Park Service's Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, to celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the ancient Potomac shoreline and Federal City boundary that courses just below the Dorchester site. As tested by Parks & People and called for by the DC Office of Planning, this trail will pass adjacent to the Dorchester on Euclid Street and provide a non-motorized greenway linking Adams Morgan/Reed-Cooke/Meridian Hill with parks, schools, and communities across innercity Washington, from Fletcher's Boat Landing to Old Anacostia.

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Josephine Butler Parks Center  
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**ZONING COMMISSION**  
CASE No. 04-36  
District of Columbia  
**EXHIBIT No.** 113  
EXHIBIT NO.113

- 3) Pocket Parks -- Continued landscape improvements to Unity, S and T, Justice, and Rebaud/Romero Parks. Dorchester support has helped leverage over \$250,000 for these parks, and for landscape assistance to area schools and playgrounds.
- 4) Park Programming -- Increased park-based curricular and extracurricular programming for schools and youth programs in Adams Morgan, Reed-Cooke, and Meridian Hill, and expanded free community arts and cultural programming of all kinds in green spaces across the neighborhood.
- 5) Community "Greenhouse" -- Underwriting of community revitalization programming by dozens of local organizations at the Josephine Butler Parks Center, DC's "greenhouse" for community park revitalization, which faces the Dorchester across Meridian Hill. Past Dorchester support here has underwritten a wide range of after school, job training, immigrant assistance, and multicultural classes and programming.

At a time when many others saw Meridian Hill as a place more for industry and car dealerships than for people, your grandfather had the vision to invest in constructing a significant apartment building here that helped advance this neighborhood as DC's urban hub. When most people gave up on our neighborhood in its darkest hours, the Dorchester never turned its back. And when local residents dreamed of transforming Meridian Hill Park from a hub of violence and drugs into the haven of community and the performing arts that it was intended to be, the Dorchester led the way in investing in this historic transformation and putting it on the map as an international model of community renewal.

Your increased support will enable us to sustain and expand this legacy for the benefit of tens of thousands of residents of our neighborhoods for generations to come.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen W. Coleman  
Executive Director