GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Parks and Recreation

October 14, 2002

Ms. Carol J. Mitten
Chairperson
Zoning Commission
441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Zoning Commission Case No. 02-15 (Recreation Centers)

Dear Ms. Mitten and Members of the Zoning Commission:

I recently became aware of the Commission's action at its September meeting to delay proposed action on a crucial and desperately needed amendment to the Zoning Regulations to allow the construction of new recreation centers throughout the District of Columbia. Apparently, the Office of Planning (OP), which advises the Commission on behalf of the Executive Branch, was not aware at the September meeting that the Department of Parks and Recreations has numerous recreation center construction projects in the pipeline for building permits in the next few months. These recreation centers are as follows:

- Georgetown Volta (Ward 2)
- Riggs-LaSalle (Ward 4)
- Hillcrest (Ward 7)
- Brentwood (Ward 5)
- Trinidad (Ward 5)
- Mitchell Park (Ward 2)
- Lamond-Riggs (Ward 4)
- Fort Davis (Ward 7)
- Girard (Ward 1)
- Banneker (Ward 1)

As you can see, these centers are scattered throughout the city. The Department is committed to working with the communities served by these recreation centers and these projects all have strong community support. For these reasons, I urge the Commission to re-adopt at the Commission's October meeting the emergency regulations that expired on October 2, 2002, so that these important projects can begin construction in time to open on schedule and serve the citizens of the District.

While we await the extension of the emergency regulations, the Department will work closely with OP to resolve the Commission's concerns about a more accurate definition of "public community center," the programmatic needs requested by the community and the resulting size of the centers, and the lot occupancy requirements of the centers.

We thank the Commission for its consideration of this case and our request.

Sincerely,

Neil Albert
Director

cc: City Administrator John Koskinen
Deputy Mayor Carolyn Graham
Deputy Mayor Eric W. Price
Andrew Altman, Director, OP

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ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.02-15
EXHIBIT NO.43