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# Columbia Heights Civic Association

November 6, 2006

Ike Sneed, Manager  
Walter Reed Community Center  
2909 16<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Arlington, VA 22204

Dear Mr. Sneed:

On behalf of the Columbia Heights Civic Association (CHCA), I congratulate you on your general management of the renovated Walter Reed Community Center. The facilities, recreational programs, and social opportunities have enhanced the neighborhood's quality of life considerably.

It is against this background of overall management that we identify certain concerns that adversely impact the Center's neighbors. The concerns are lighting, buses, and handicapped access.

## Lighting

The glare of the lights disturbs the Center's neighbors. As you know, the CHCA, Arlington Village, and the Commons of Arlington have previously brought this issue to your attention.

At CHCA's September 28<sup>th</sup> general membership meeting, residents of 16<sup>th</sup> Street South informed us they are greatly disturbed by the lighting. The glare prevents them from resting to the same extent as their neighbors in Arlington Village and the Commons of Arlington. These residents indicated that they have already contacted you and received assurances from you that shielding fixtures would be installed. We ask that you have the shields installed as soon as possible and inform us of the date you expect the installation to be complete.

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Idling Buses

Nearby residents on 16<sup>th</sup> Street also have been disturbed by buses parking on the street. The buses linger for more than a half-hour, creating fumes and noise.

The CHCA was informed at the town meetings concerning the Center that Walter Reed Drive would be the main access to the Center for all regularly scheduled traffic. We are confused as to why the buses are accessing the Center and idling on 16<sup>th</sup> Street. In any case, we request that no parking or idling be permitted on 16<sup>th</sup> Street, but rather be kept to the Center's parking lots.

Handicapped Access

It has become clear that there is no handicapped access to the building's interior. While it is helpful to have curbs designed for access to sidewalks, individuals with wheelchairs, walkers, or canes are still challenged with opening the manually operated doors.

The community has always assumed that both entrances would be equipped with button or switch-activated doors to complete the facility's handicapped accessibility, according to code, or at least in the spirit of the codes for public building access. We understand that you currently are keeping the doors open for accessibility; however we are concerned that when the colder weather arrives, this will not be continued.

The CHCA would appreciate your response to the aforementioned issues. Please respond directly to me as soon as possible regarding your progress in their resolution.

I want to reiterate that we appreciate your hard work and recognize the challenges you face in managing the Center. Please let us know what the CHCA can do to support you in these efforts.

Sincerely,

Reggie Nixon  
CHCA Liaison to Walter Reed Community Center