

David Garber, ANC 6D07
Ed Kaminski, ANC 6D02
1101 4th Street, SW
Suite W 130
Washington, DC 20024

March 12, 2013

Mayor Vincent C. Gray
& Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: Our Support for KIPP's Proposed Improvements to the Randal Recreation Site

Dear Mayor Gray and Member of the Council of the District of Columbia,

We, the undersigned Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners for 6D07 and 6D02, at and immediately surrounding the Randall park and recreation center at the corner of South Capitol Street, SW, and I Street, SW, would like to formally voice our support for KIPP DC's proposed charter high school, community medical clinic, community recreation center, and renovated playing fields at the site. After soliciting resident feedback in the form of an advertised public meeting, multiple requests on a variety of social media channels, and over email, we believe this project is in the best interest of our immediate communities, Ward 6, and the District as a whole, and strongly urge you to facilitate the release of an request for proposals for a full modernization of the site.

Not only does KIPP have a fantastic reputation in DC and elsewhere for providing the tools and education necessary for students to thrive in elementary, middle, and high school, and to prepare them for college, they also have a reputation for providing state-of-the-art facilities and good neighbor policies in the communities they serve. In Shaw (Ward 6), Anacostia (Ward 8), and Benning Ridge (Ward 7) this has meant revitalizing neighborhoods with new and maintained fields and buildings, a dog park, and a best-in-class children's dental clinic.

The KIPP proposal at the Randall site offers many attractive community benefits through private investment, as well as significant savings to DC taxpayers were these improvements to be made by the District. Included in the project – aside from a nationally recognized college prep charter high school of which we should all be proud – would be a brand new community recreation center, an indoor gymnasium available for community use, a best-in-class Georgetown Medical walk-in clinic, and acres of upgraded recreation space.

Not only will the renovated fields and new buildings be a physical and visual improvement over what is there now, the school itself will give flesh to our communities'

stated desire to be more diverse and inclusive. To truly be one city, we must provide opportunities for all kinds of people in all kinds of places.

The Randall site has been a place for learning and recreation for over 100 years. Although the school building that still exists at the site is planned to become a residential and arts-based mixed-use project – that, considering the creative possibilities of being located next door, we believe would be an excellent neighbor for the school – students attending the nearby Amidon-Bowen Elementary, Jefferson Middle, and other near-by schools will have a new recreation programming and resources at the Randall fields, and KIPP’s Capital Teaching Residency program has committed to working with Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson to develop a partnership that would place high-performing teachers in their classrooms. As partner school sites, Amidon-Bowen and Jefferson would also gain access to the Capital Teaching Residency’s award-winning professional development opportunities and resources. There are clear benefits for both DC Public Schools and public charter students.

We urge you to lead the way in helping facilitate the delivery of these long-awaited improvements to the Randall site. We request that you protect and enhance the recreation and educational components for which the site has long been programmed and zoned, and to please act quickly to support this important project by expediting the release of a request for proposals to modernize the site.

The moment is right for a state-of-the-art high school, medical center, community recreation center, and park facility at this location. Passing on this opportunity would be a missed opportunity for real improvement and change for the children and future of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



Commissioner David Garber, ANC 6D07



Commissioner Ed Kaminski, ANC6D02

Cc:

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Tommy Wells
Councilmember David Catania
Councilmember Vincent Orange
Councilmember David Grosso
Councilmember Anita Bonds
Councilmember Jim Graham
Councilmember Jack Evans
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh
Councilmember Muriel Bowser

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie
Councilmember Yvette Alexander
Councilmember Marion Barry
Allen Y. Lew, City Administrator
Victor Hoskins, Deputy Mayor
Michael Stevens, Capitol Riverfront BID
Gregory McCarthy, Washington Nationals
Jesus Aguire, Department of Parks & Recreation
Commissioners of ANC 6D
Kael Anderson, SW Neighborhood Assembly