



Received by CC

EXHIBIT NO. 2

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10-13-01

October 7, 2001

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I am writing to implore you to reconsider your decision to designate Chetworth Park as a dog run. Chetworth Park is a small, neighborhood, pocket park that is unsuitable for a dog run.

The City of Alexandria's Health Department determined that it was a health hazard for a dog run to be adjacent to a children's playground. Yet, the City allows the situation to persist. Why should the children of this neighborhood be left with the choice of going to an unclean potentially unhealthy park or playing in the street?

Chetworth Park was a beautiful park which was enjoyed by the whole neighborhood. Plenty of dogs used the park as well as children and adults. The entire area was sodded, well maintained and attractive. It was exactly what a park should be in an area of closely spaced homes, it provided a little breathing space for people.

Today the park is so unattractive from the dog overuse that most of the neighborhood now avoids the park. There are many people in the neighborhood who will not even bring their dogs to the park because it is so dirty and because they are afraid of unruly dogs that will attack their dog.

Please return Chetworth Park back to the people of our neighborhood. I am requesting City Council immediately end the dog run designation of Chetworth Park returning Chetworth Park to a multi-purpose community park to include dogs on leashes.

Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Michael ...



POUL HERTEL
1217 MICHIGAN COURT
ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA 22314

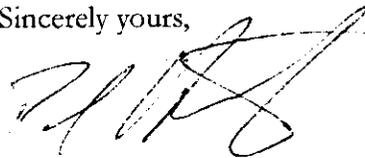
October 12, 2001

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Alexandria City Council

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of the Alexandria City Council:

Please find enclosed a letter submitted to Sandra Whitmore to clarify the deliberations of the NorthEast Citizens' Association meeting. The salient point is that by focusing on pressing safety needs, the vote taken in no way reflects an endorsement of nor does it in any way render an opinion on the land-use designation of the Park as a dog run.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Hertel', written in a cursive style.

Poul Hertel

Sandra Whitmore
Director Park and Recreations Department

October 10, 2001

Dear Sandra;

The Northeast Citizens' Association meeting has generated some confusion with regards to deliberations on Chetworth Park.

The meeting was advertised to deal with the replacement of the children's equipment and the placement of a separate entrance for the children into the tot lot. A motion was made from the floor to discuss the wider issue of the official designation of the park as a dog run. The motion was **deferred** (not tabled) by a motion and a vote from the body (due to the lateness after considerable time having been expended on the elections of the association, and concern that such a wider issue had not been announced in the flyer).

The discussion continued on the appropriateness of the replacement equipment and the separate entrance, both of which should have taken place months ago because of serious safety concerns. A vote was taken on these issues because

1. They were advertised
2. They are safety related
3. They have been discussed for six months and were agreed to at the sub committee level.
4. They were separate from the wider land use designation issue, which had been deferred.

By focusing on pressing safety needs, the vote in no way reflects an endorsement of nor does it in any way render an opinion on the land-use designation of the Park as a dog run.

Poul Hertel
*Official NorthEast Citizen Association President
during the meeting*

To: Mayor Kerry Donley



Hotmail® pcilfone@hotmail.com

Inbox | Previous Page

From : "Patricia Cilfone" <pcilfone@hotmail.com>
To : mayoralx@aol.com, billclev@home.com, eberwein=council@home.com, wrneuille@wdeuille.com, delpepper@aol.com, dspeck@aol.com, council-woodson@home.com
Subject : End Dog Run at Chetworth Park
Date : Fri, 12 Oct 2001 12:11:52

Dear Mr. Mayor and Members of Council,

I cannot attend the meeting tomorrow as my child is being baptized, but I am writing to implore you to immediately end the dog run designation at Chetworth Park. I am a dog owner/lover and proponent of dog runs. Chetworth Park, as a small, neighborhood, pocket park that is adjacent to homes and a children's playground, is unsuitable, however, for a dog run.

The City of Alexandria's Health Department determined that it is a health hazard for a dog run to be adjacent to a children's playground. Yet, the city allows the situation to persist. Would you like to take your child or grandchild to a playground where the Health department determined they could be exposed to harmful diseases? Why should the children of this neighborhood be left with the choice of going to an unclean, potentially unhealthy park or playing in the streets.

There is also the safety issue of having large numbers of dogs, some that are very large, playing and fighting near small children. The City's proposed solution to replace the current three-foot fence with a four-foot fence and to provide a separate entrance is inadequate. There are several dogs that routinely jump the four-foot fence that surrounds the outer perimeter of the park. Merely putting up a four-foot fence will not change the situation in the least. Putting up a higher fence is inappropriate in such a small park.

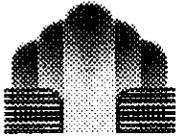
I am told by neighbors that, before it was designated a dog run, Chetworth Park was once a beautiful, green oasis that the whole neighborhood enjoyed. I understand that the park was used as a gathering place for neighborhood social events including children's birthday parties. Today the park is so unattractive from dog overuse that most of the neighborhood now avoids the park. Many of my neighbors have told me that they will not even bring their dogs to the park because it is so dirty and because they are afraid of unruly dogs that are not under adequate control by their owners. Not surprisingly, many parents are also reluctant to bring their children to the park in light of the Health Department's health warnings, its dirtiness, and safety concerns.

I am sure that you will hear from the well organized and vocal minority who enjoy taking their dogs to the park. These users are in the minority of the neighborhood as evidenced by a recent petition which shows a majority of the neighborhood wants the dog run designation to end. The fact that they are in the minority is also evidenced by the landslide defeat of their candidates for president and vice-president at the recent October 3, 2001 North East Civic Association elections (an unprecedented number of concerned residents came to the meeting largely to vote against the dog run candidates). The City should create a new dog run that is not adjacent to homes or a playground for these residents to enjoy.

Please give the children of the Chetworth Park neighborhood a clean and safe place to play. Please return Chetworth Park to its original beauty so that it can be enjoyed by a greater number of neighborhood residents. Efforts to resolve this issue in the neighborhood have been wholly unsuccessful. Please immediately end the dog run designation of Chetworth Park and return it to a multi-purpose community park where dogs on leashes are welcome.

Sincerely,

Patricia Smith
701 Devon Place
Alexandria VA 22314



Lori Godwin

10/12/01 04:32 PM

To: ppietra@earthlink.net @ INTERNET, tmpf@erols.com @ INTERNET,
kmacdonald@nri-staffing.com @ INTERNET,
goodship.tabasco@verizon.net @ INTERNET,
rmills@marasconewton.com @ INTERNET
cc: Michele Evans/Alex@Alex, Beverly I Jett/Alex@Alex, Sandra
Whitmore/Alex@Alex, Sandy Murphy/Alex@Alex
Subject: Chetworth Park and City Council Public Hearing on Saturday

Hello to all,

I am writing from the City Manager's office. I know I have not captured all who have written or expressed an interest in the issue about Chetworth Park, so I would appreciate it if you would spread the word. The Mayor will also announce this at the public hearing on Saturday.

We are aware that several people intend to testify before City Council on Saturday at the public hearing, but we wanted to clarify for you that City Council **has not docketed this issue for action on Saturday**. While Council will listen to your testimony, they will not be taking a vote on the issue at tomorrow's hearing.

If you have any questions, please call me at 703-838-4300.

Lori Godwin
Assistant City Manager