

2
9-13-08

September 13, 2008

Dear Alexandria City Council Member:

We are writing to you as residents of the City of Alexandria, and more specifically, as homeowners of the Chatham Square community about an urgent matter that is threatening our safety and quality of life here in the heart of Old Town. And, it is our sincere hope that you, as our representative, are willing to assist us with these urgent concerns by scheduling a meeting to discuss ARHA and its management of the residents located at Hopkins and Tancil Courts.

Many of us purchased our homes in the Chatham Square community in 2005, excited to take part in this innovative, new community concept. Many of us had been told by our realtors that the Chatham Square initiative was being closely watched by other cities to see if this new way of approaching mixed-income housing would be a success and that the city fully supported its needs.

Much like any other community across the country, we have had our growing pains, but remained excited about our new homes and neighbors. As we settled in, our Homeowners Association Board worked closely and diligently with residents, ARHA and other city stakeholders in establishing common rules and promoting respect and consideration among community members. And although we are a new community, we pride ourselves in being able to live in this type of arrangement peacefully and respectfully.

To our dismay, this type of respect and common courtesy is not reflected in the residents across the street in the portion of public housing that the city did not redevelop. This section, commonly referred to as Samuel Madden South, the "Berg", or Hopkins and Tancil Courts, has caused many homeowners, not just at Chatham Square, a great deal of frustration, stress and fear. We do not feel we are getting the support from the city that we were led to believe just a few years ago.

We often feel besieged by the ongoing and progressively worsening activity that takes place at Hopkins and Tancil Courts on a daily basis. We are afraid to leave our homes and are alarmed at the unchecked, disruptive and often criminal behavior. Some of the more serious incidents that have taken place in this area in just the last year include shootings, stabbings, burglaries, robberies, drug dealing, vandalism and gang fights. Other quality of life issues abound with loitering, littering, graffiti, drinking in public and other disorderly conduct behavior.

Members of the Chatham Square community have taken initiative during community meetings, board meetings and other city gatherings to try and bring

these matters to the attention of city officials. There have been countless calls for help to the police, some of which have gone unheard or blatantly discarded. In some meetings, police officials have indicated that they have limited resources and can only ramp up patrols in this neighborhood for short periods of time. We have also been informed that certain city ordinances are so narrow in definition that they are basically unenforceable (e.g. loitering).

It is our understanding that the City of Alexandria has a lot invested in the success of the Chatham Square community. We are writing to tell you that true success is in real jeopardy and if something is not done by city officials like yourself to address our concerns, it is certain to fail. This situation has become so dire, that many residents have or are already making plans to move out when we had hoped to remain here for years, completely frustrated by the lack of help from our city officials and agencies.

We cannot continue to remain in a place where there are no rules or consequences for those who continue to disrespect their surrounding neighbors. Our Homeowners Association Board is doing everything they can to help us work through these issues but it is not enough. We need a city-supported and endorsed plan of action to address these issues. It is for this reason that we respectfully request an in-person meeting with you at your earliest convenience. Enclosed you will find a CD containing videos and photos that accurately portray the recent events taking place in your Old Town community — just three blocks away from City Hall. We think you will be as appalled as we are and look forward to hearing back from you regarding these very serious and troubling concerns.

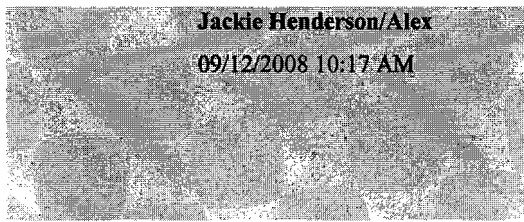
In the meantime, we will follow up with your office and/or scheduler in the coming weeks to schedule a time to meet.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

The Homeowners and Renters at Chatham Square

2
9-13-08



Jackie Henderson/Alex
09/12/2008 10:17 AM

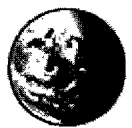
To council@krupicka.com, justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov,
alexvamayor@aol.com, councilmangaines@aol.com,
timothylovain@aol.com, delpepper@aol.com,
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Public Hearing, 13 Sep 08

Council:

Ms. Clemens is requesting additional time to speak at Saturday's public hearing - item #2, public discussion. She is representing Chatham Square. I believe (although it is not clear) she is requesting a total time of 15 minutes.

Jackie M. Henderson
City Clerk and Clerk of Council
City of Alexandria, Virginia

----- Forwarded by Jackie Henderson/Alex on 09/12/2008 10:15 AM -----



Kara Clemens
<clemenskara@hotmail.com>
09/11/2008 01:54 PM

To <jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov>
cc
Subject FW: Public Hearing, 13 Sep 08

I think I typed your address wrong on the first try---thanks!

From: clemenskara@hotmail.com
To: jackie.hendersom@alexandriava.gov; realdinger@hotmail.com; mike@nxtwave.com;
schultz514@aol.com; seanpipia@hotmail.com; teresawhite.pipia@gmail.com
Subject: Public Hearing, 13 Sep 08
Date: Thu, 11 Sep 2008 17:47:15 +0000

Jackie,

As discussed earlier, I submitted the speaker's form and would like to request additional time to address our neighborhood concerns. We realize all issues addressed with the City are significant but we do need the extra time to cover what has become an urgent and serious threat to our community. Attached is the letter---we'll be presenting this letter (signed by Chatham Square residents) to all council members.

I appreciate all of your help.

Kara Clemens

Want to do more with Windows Live? Learn "10 hidden secrets" from Jamie. [Learn Now](#)

Get more out of the Web. Learn 10 hidden secrets of Windows Live. [Learn Now](#)

Want to do more with Windows Live? Learn "10 hidden secrets" from Jamie. [Learn Now](#)



Letter_to_City_Council_Members.doc

September 13, 2008

Dear Alexandria City Council Member:

We are writing to you as residents of the City of Alexandria, and more specifically, as homeowners of the Chatham Square community about an urgent matter that is threatening our safety and quality of life here in the heart of Old Town. And, it is our sincere hope that you, as our representative, are willing to assist us with these urgent concerns by scheduling a meeting to discuss ARHA and its management of the residents located at Hopkins and Tancil Courts.

Many of us purchased our homes in the Chatham Square community in 2005, excited to take part in this innovative, new community concept. Many of us had been told by our realtors that the Chatham Square initiative was being closely watched by other cities to see if this new way of approaching mixed-income housing would be a success and that the city fully supported its needs.

Much like any other community across the country, we have had our growing pains, but remained excited about our new homes and neighbors. As we settled in, our Homeowners Association Board worked closely and diligently with residents, ARHA and other city stakeholders in establishing common rules and promoting respect and consideration among community members. And although we are a new community, we pride ourselves in being able to live in this type of arrangement peacefully and respectfully.

To our dismay, this type of respect and common courtesy is not reflected in the residents across the street in the portion of public housing that the city did not redevelop. This section, commonly referred to as Samuel Madden South, the "Berg", or Hopkins and Tancil Courts, has caused many homeowners, not just at Chatham Square, a great deal of frustration, stress and fear. We do not feel we are getting the support from the city that we were led to believe just a few years ago.

We often feel besieged by the ongoing and progressively worsening activity that takes place at Hopkins and Tancil Courts on a daily basis. We are afraid to leave our homes and are alarmed at the unchecked, disruptive and often criminal behavior. Some of the more serious incidents that have taken place in this area in just the last year include shootings, stabbings, burglaries, robberies, drug dealing, vandalism and gang fights. Other quality of life issues abound with loitering, littering, graffiti, drinking in public and other disorderly conduct behavior.

Members of the Chatham Square community have taken initiative during community meetings, board meetings and other city gatherings to try and bring

these matters to the attention of city officials. There have been countless calls for help to the police, some of which have gone unheard or blatantly discarded. In some meetings, police officials have indicated that they have limited resources and can only ramp up patrols in this neighborhood for short periods of time. We have also been informed that certain city ordinances are so narrow in definition that they are basically unenforceable (e.g. loitering).

It is our understanding that the City of Alexandria has a lot invested in the success of the Chatham Square community. We are writing to tell you that true success is in real jeopardy and if something is not done by city officials like yourself to address our concerns, it is certain to fail. This situation has become so dire, that many residents have or are already making plans to move out when we had hoped to remain here for years, completely frustrated by the lack of help from our city officials and agencies.

We cannot continue to remain in a place where there are no rules or consequences for those who continue to disrespect their surrounding neighbors. Our Homeowners Association Board is doing everything they can to help us work through these issues but it is not enough. We need a city-supported and endorsed plan of action to address these issues. It is for this reason that we respectfully request an in-person meeting with you at your earliest convenience. Enclosed you will find a CD containing videos and photos that accurately portray the recent events taking place in your Old Town community — just three blocks away from City Hall. We think you will be as appalled as we are and look forward to hearing back from you regarding these very serious and troubling concerns.

In the meantime, we will follow up with your office and/or scheduler in the coming weeks to schedule a time to meet.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

The Homeowners and Renters at Chatham Square

2
9-13-08



"Ingrid Sanden"
<iasanden@gmail.com>
09/13/2008 02:17 PM

To jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov
cc "William Euille" <alexvamayor@aol.com>, "Paul Smedberg"
<smedbergpc@aol.com>, "Paul Smedberg"
<PaulCSmedberg@aol.com>, "Rob Krupicka"
bcc

Subject remarks from today

History: This message has been replied to.

Hello,

Attached you'll find my remarks from the open mic session this morning. Could you please include them in the record for today's city council meeting? Thank you! And let me know if I need to submit these a different way!

Sincerely,
Ingrid Sanden

--
Ingrid Sanden
iasanden@gmail.com

This email is for the use of the intended recipient(s) only and is not for distribution or publication. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and then delete it. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not keep, use, disclose, copy or distribute this email without the author's prior permission. The information contained in this communication may be confidential.



City Council Open Mic.doc

City Council Open Mic:

Hello. My name is Ingrid Sanden. I live at 5238 Bessley Place in Cameron Station. I'm the president of the Cameron Station Civic Association.

I speak today to support our civic association's request to council for an independent inquiry into the actions and inactions of the city staff regarding the Norfolk Southern ethanol transloading facility.

My neighbors and I believe the city council will agree that the ramifications of the staff's reaction to and inaction on this subject – for the past 12 months and even before – are very serious and far-reaching. Not only has this situation helped erode our confidence and trust in our city government, we were also left with no way to fight this facility before it was completed. Worse, we were left alone for more than two months, between April 9 and the end of June before the Alexandria Fire Department was finally equipped with the supplies they feel they need to handle an event at the facility. I would like to know what the city's plan was should there have been an incident at the facility during that time period. We are talking about people's children, pets, and homes here. It's not theoretical. These are our lives and safety you are impacting.

There is a problem at city hall. Whether it is a problem of incompetence, negligence, communications, misunderstanding, bad management, poor judgment, or some of all of these, I don't know. But the point is, you don't know either. This is why we need an independent inquiry. This investigation needs to be kept separate from the current city manager-directed

organization development effort that management consultants are doing at city hall. We have no interest in connecting the two because they are separate issues, for different purposes, under different chains of command. We would not endorse or support such a proposal.

The reason this inquiry is so critical is because we are left with two goals: 1) close down or move Norfolk Southern to a more appropriate location and 2) keep our families, our property, and our neighborhoods safe. We are unable to achieve these goals unless we have a capable and focused city government working firmly with us and for us. We must have a city government that responds to citizen questions and concerns, one that should have been able to develop a realistic and aggressive strategy to deal with Norfolk Southern on many fronts, and one that is equipped to develop and carry out a realistic plan should the unthinkable happen.

We are pleased to be gaining significant support for our request from other civic associations and individuals throughout the city. Residents in Alexandria seem to understand that if this type of massive screw up could happen in Cameron Station, it could happen anywhere, anytime. Our goal is not, as some have suggested, to have heads roll at city hall. Those are conclusions you would have to make. Our goal is to prevent this type of egregious lapse in judgment from ever happening again in Alexandria and get back to being able to trust and respect our city government.

Thank you.

2

9-13-08

September 13, 2008

Dear Alexandria City Council Member:

We are writing to you as residents of the City of Alexandria, and more specifically, as homeowners of the Chatham Square community, about an urgent matter that is threatening our safety and quality of life here in the heart of Old Town. And, it is our sincere hope that you, as our representative, are willing to assist us with these urgent concerns by scheduling a meeting to discuss ARHA and its management of the residents located at Hopkins and Tancil Courts.

Many of us purchased our homes in the Chatham Square community in 2005, excited to take part in this innovative, new community concept. Many of us had been told by our realtors that the Chatham Square initiative was being closely watched by other cities to see if this new way of approaching mixed-income housing would be a success and that the city fully supported its needs.

Much like any other new and developing communities across the country, we have had our growing pains. But our Homeowners Association Board has continued to work closely and diligently with homeowners, tenants, ARHA and other city stakeholders in establishing common rules and promoting respect and consideration among our fellow neighbors.

To our dismay, this type of respect and common courtesy is not reflected by those tenants along North Royal Street occupying public housing residences that the city did not redevelop. This section, commonly referred to as Samuel Madden South, the "Berg", or Hopkins and Tancil Courts, has caused many homeowners, not just at Chatham Square, a great deal of frustration, stress and fear. We do not feel we are getting the support from the city that we were led to believe just a few years ago.

We often feel besieged by the ongoing and progressively worsening activity that takes place in and around this area on a daily basis. We are afraid to leave our homes and are alarmed at the unchecked, disruptive and often criminal behavior. Some of the more serious incidents that have taken place along the Hopkins/Tancil Court corridor in just the last year include shootings, stabbings, burglaries, robberies, drug dealing, vandalism and gang fights. Other quality of life issues abound with loitering, littering, graffiti, drinking in public and other disorderly conduct behavior.

Members of the Chatham Square community have taken initiative during community meetings, board meetings and other city gatherings to try and bring these matters to the attention of city officials. There have been countless calls for help to the police, some of which have gone unheard or blatantly discarded. In some meetings, police officials have indicated that they have limited resources and can only ramp up patrols in this neighborhood for short periods of time. We have also been informed that certain city ordinances are so narrow in definition that they are basically unenforceable (e.g. loitering).

It is our understanding that the City of Alexandria has a lot invested in the success of the Chatham Square community. We are writing to tell you that true success is in real jeopardy and if something is not done by city officials like yourself to address our concerns, it is certain to fail. This situation has become so dire that many of the residents (who had originally planned to enjoy their homes for years) have, or are already, making plans to move out — even at a financial loss — due to complete frustration by the lack of help from the city and its agencies.

We cannot continue to remain in a place where there are no rules or consequences for those who continue to disrespect their surrounding neighbors. Our Homeowners Association Board is doing everything they can to help us work through these issues, but it is not enough. We need a city-supported and endorsed plan of action to address these concerns. It is for this reason that we respectfully request an in-person meeting with you at your earliest convenience. Enclosed you will find a CD containing videos and photos that accurately portray the recent events taking place in the Old Town community you represent — just three blocks away from City Hall. We think you will be as appalled as we are by what you see and we very much look forward to hearing back from you regarding this deeply troubling situation.

In the coming weeks, we will follow up with your office and/or scheduler to arrange a time to meet to further discuss these issues.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

The Homeowners and Renters at Chatham Square

J. Patrick Butler (N. Royal St)
Kara Clemens (N. Royal St)
Mary Schultzy (N. Royal St.)
Ralph Hending 402 Pendleton St
Kathleen Brindel 402 Pendleton St.
Lawrence Smith 404 Pendleton St.
Joseph A. Benvenuti 408 PENDLETON ST.
Michael Amin Pendleton Street.
Brenda Bearden 525 N. Pitt St.
Jay Lauffer (Pitt St)

The Homeowners and Renters at Chatham Square:

Donna P. Oz - N. Royal Street

Sea D. Pipia - N. Royal St.

Juanette Au-Vin - N. Pitt St.

PAUL STAYERT N⁵¹¹ PITT PAUL_RICHARD@aol.com
COMCAST.NET

Tyler Schaff 509 N Pitt teschaff@comcast.net

Rochelle Gray 523 N. Pitt rochelgray@aol.com

HANBY MACAWY 400 ORONOCO

CINDY MACAWY " "

Richard M. H. Loesch 416 ORONOCO richard.loesch@us.army.mil

Hattie Thurman 420 ORONOCO lewandhattie@comcast.net

Lewin Thomas 420 ORONOCO ST "

Christopher Pommerehne 411 N Pitt St cpommerer@aol.com

Costanza Elena 425 Princess elenalex@aol.com



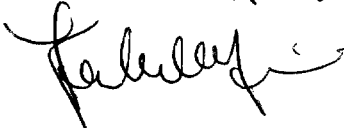

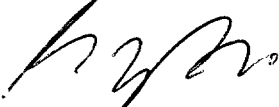

Elly 419 Princess elenaggva@yahoo.com

Adam Hardinger 424 Cook Street readingere@hotmail.com

Wendy 425 Princess Street wendyukeld107@aol.com
comcast.net

Ann Donsetti 426 N. Royal St.
den donsetti@comcast.net

The Homeowners and Renters at Chatham Square:

 418 EUILLE ST.
John Rausch 420 EUILLE ST (felix@feainstitute.org)
Barbara Chandras 420 EUILLE ST.
 417 Euille St
417 Euille St.
D.J. M. 417 Euille St.
Mike Mulberry 415 Euille St.

415 EUILLE ST
 418 N. Royal St.

418 N Royal St (kqmcphai@yahoo.com)
 520 N. Royal St. krcji@msn.com
Lyndon D. Richardson
Christina J. Allen 520 N. Royal St. cjidena@gmail.com
Margaret Cook (Cook St) margieb4_2000@yahoo.com
Natalie N. Grelley 502 N. Royal St. ngoldberg724@gmail.com

The Homeowners and Renters at Chatham Square:

My name is Gary Carr and I rise once again in advocacy of the restoration of the running tracks at Francis Hammond and George Washington Middle Schools, our former high schools. Most of you are familiar with my statements in regard to running tracks in the city, about which I have presented a cogent set of arguments over several years, most notably last year when I resolved to speak out in public forums as forcefully and often as I could manage. I have presented a persuasive set of reasons for the restoration of these tracks, the premises upon which I remain unchallenged. Among my justifications were community need, childhood obesity, Type 2 diabetes and other preventable diseases, sedentary lifestyles, reduction of physical education during school hours, developing healthy habits, scholarships, self esteem, and many other justifications, some intangible like "values" and "work ethic." Some all too tangible, like life expectancy. The lack of running tracks in this city is hurting our children, this is what I seek to convey. If a thousand people showed up for another idea, it would not be more meritorious than this one, for ten thousand children are depending on you.

Because of the significant change in leadership in the school system, and the move toward consolidating the effort of the recreation and schools, I feel compelled to bring this issue to your attention again, then I can end my crusade, comfortable in the knowledge that I did my part as a parent and citizen to promote an idea that I truly believe in. Can one person make a difference? I am not sure. What I am sure of is that running tracks will have tremendous positive impact on every child, and promote physical fitness in the community at large.

For the record, I am aware of the new track and field at T.C. Williams High School, and it is a wonderful facility. It has *begun* to fill the void that left this city without a public track for nearly five years. However, this one track does not fully address the needs of our children or the community. Aside from the shortcomings of no lighting and not being a championship 8-lanes, it does not provide an outlet for developing future runners by beginning at the middle school level. How many track and field Olympians came from the Washington Metro area? None.

This problem is especially acute at Hammond Middle School. The so-called "track" is a convoluted meandering path that is prone to flooding with any meaningful rainfall. The field is no better, so that with virtually any precipitation the students are left with no outlet for outdoor activity, even after the rains have passed. This intolerable situation has been tolerated for ten years. The situation at Washington Middle School is a little better, it can just be accurately described as pathetic. Yet, while the cost of this infrastructure development is relatively negligible, and it has no negative impact on field inventory, the benefits are inestimable.

I am not a Don Quixote, the impractical idealist seeking to right incorrigible wrongs. In fact I am an unlikely champion of this issue. But as is evidenced by my actions, this is a project I truly believe is beneficial to our children. Sometimes though, I feel like the Long Ranger, and fail to understand how a community of caring and compassionate people could allow this situation to evolve, no less persist. Someone is not being well served, and it is both the leadership and children. I am cognizant of budget priorities and political realities, but if something is right, it is simply right. You don't need a This needs to change. We have the resources, we simply need to find the will.

The construction of running track at our middle schools will indubitably change for the better the health of our community, it will also change the nature of social interaction. For all sports or activities, whether running, walking, jogging or even rolling, exercising on a running track is truly an equal opportunity endeavor. The young and old, rich and poor, of any socio-economic or political persuasion are treated the same same by what defines a track- time and distance. I will say it now, and again until I'm done- *If we build it, they will run.*