



AURORA HIGHLANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

September 20, 2019

Christian Dorsey, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Chair Dorsey:

The AHCA Executive Board does not have any overriding objection to the content of the Memorandum of Agreement with Marymount University regarding use of county facilities, but our review of the MOA does raise concerns that we would like to state for the record.

AHCA has ongoing concerns that these types of agreements can adversely impact access to facilities by the community. For example, we have seen the "community soccer field" at Virginia Highlands Park significantly restricted by youth soccer leagues.

While the agreement in question appears to prioritize resident access, the fact remains that additional use by private groups can affect neighborhood access, directly to the facilities in question and indirectly as access shifts to other facilities.

In the case of potential future uses such as softball, AHCA would be strongly opposed to an arrangement that specifically dedicates access to fields at Virginia Highlands Park. Although this is not stated in the current agreement, Virginia Highlands has been cited in remarks as a likely site for such facilities, and the somewhat inexplicable grouping of the facilities allocated to Marymount in south Arlington at Long Bridge, Virginia Highlands, and Barcroft further suggests Virginia Highlands is a primary candidate. Dedicating access to these facilities would interfere with an open master planning process expected for Virginia Highlands Park in the near future.

Finally, these concerns were raised in response to the notification from the county, but are not reflected in the staff report. We believe it would be more useful to the board and other citizen groups if feedback were reflected in the staff report rather than just noting who had been notified.

Sincerely,

/Scott Miles/
President
Aurora Highlands Civic Association

cc:
Board members