



July 30, 2012

Parisa Norouzi
Executive Director
Empower DC
1490 V Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

RE: Support for Stopping the Bus Parking at the Crummell School in Ivy City

Dear Ms. Norouzi:

Manna was one of four affordable housing organizations selected by the DC Department of Housing and Community Development to develop and build new affordable housing in Ivy City as a demonstration project to help revitalize this underserved area. The housing already built and to be built pursuant to this city initiative is ownership housing, so the new owners become instant stakeholders and act as a catalyst for more positive development.

This Ivy City initiative always included the participation of the residents of Ivy City since its inception about 6 or 7 years ago. Long before construction began, and even after new residents began moving in, the city through its Office of Planning and DHCD, and DHCD in partnership with the National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC), promoted a "new" Ivy City that would become a very desirable place to live. This vision was communicated to the public through public meetings, through the distribution of literature, and through the DHCD website. As a builder we communicated that written vision to our buyers and prospective buyers, in short, here are some things our buyers and Ivy City residents were promised, and there is written documentation to prove it:

- Quality new affordable housing
- Increased commercial development and employment opportunities
- A comprehensive vision for community development
- Quality environments and access to nature
- A walkable community
- A voice in its future.

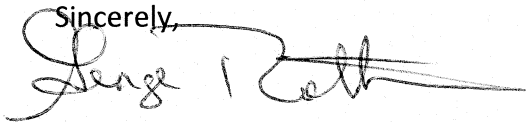
At no time were more industrial uses mentioned. At no time was a bus parking lot discussed. In fact, there was support to try to get rid of the existing school buses because people considered them hazardous to the community.

Regarding the use of the Crummell School, there were city-organized meetings and RFPs, or similar documents, that stated or suggested the city wanted uses for the Crummell School site that were positive to the community. The bus parking lot does nothing positive for the community.

At the very least, we consider the use of the Crummell School land as a bus parking lot as breach of trust and misrepresentation. Rather than enhance property values and revitalize a long distressed community with many long time residents, the city is doing just the opposite. That is not acceptable.

Manna supports Empower DC, the Ivy City Civic Association and Ivy City residents actions to stop and reverse the city's interim use of the Crummell School land for bus parking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Rothman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George Rothman
President