



6230 3rd Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20011 (202) 722-7423 fax (202) 722-7427

Parisa Norouzi
Executive Director
Empower DC
1419 V St, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Ms. Norouzi,

August 1, 2012

I am writing to express my support for efforts for and with the Ivy City community to redevelop the historic Crummel School into a functioning center that will benefit Ivy City residents.

As a non-profit developer taking part in the City's Ivy City Special Demonstration Project, we have assisted in improving the quality of life for Ivy City residents, and in creating affordable housing opportunities for current and future community members. We have observed how the redevelopment effort is strengthening this once-vibrant community in which Crummel School once played a key role at the heart of the neighborhood.

We have spent many hours attending community meetings, planning and design charrettes, and out-reaching to the community to market our affordable homes, and we repeatedly heard the hope expressed that Crummel School will be rebuilt into a strong center for the community. Current and future residents expressed to us on many occasions their desire to see the school redeveloped into a center that would offer services to the community, a result that would complement and strengthen years of hard work and millions of dollars that the City and the Federal Government has invested in Ivy City. Most recently, we were pleased to hear that the community's vision for a center that would support workforce development could become a reality. We understand that the Workplace DC Collaborative has expressed interest in facilitating the renewal of Crummel School into a community center with a focus on employment education.

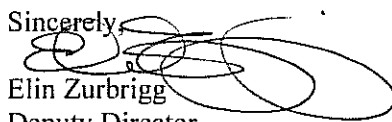
We would like to extend our heartfelt support for such an important, needed, and sought-after re-use of Crummel School.

We have further learned that the City is considering utilizing a portion of the Crummel School site for the charter buses. School bus traffic and industrial uses have historically plagued Ivy City, adding pollution and congestion as further impediments to attempts by the community, non-profits, and the City to stimulate reinvestment and improve quality of life in Ivy City. A move in this direction would be going backwards to a time when Ivy City was the site for many 'undesirable' light industrial uses that other neighborhoods did not want.

A move in the direction of realizing the community's vision for restoring the heart of the neighborhood that is Crummel School into a community center, and fully realizing the City-initiated community restoration project, will truly be a success story in neighborhood revitalization that the District can be proud of well into the future.

Please let me know if we can be of further support in this endeavor.

Sincerely,


Elin Zurbrigg
Deputy Director

A NONPROFIT DEVELOPER OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING
UNA ORGANIZACION SIN FINES DE LUCRO PARA EL
DESARROLLO DE VIVIENDAS ECONOMICAS