



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

August 1, 2012

Dear Parisa

I write this letter in support of the Ivy City community and Empower DC's efforts to stop the siting of a charter bus depot at the historic Alexander Crummell School. The siting of the charter bus depot in this predominantly African American community is an environmental justice issue. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.<sup>i</sup>

According to the facts of this case, the Mayor of the District of Columbia and defendant corporation, on May 12th 2012, entered into a License Agreement to construct still another vehicle parking and storage facility, on public land, in the heart of Ivy City, to house at least 65 buses daily, 1) without notice to the community or to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (hereafter "ANC"), as required by law; 2) without giving due consideration to the views of the community or "Great Weight" to the opinion of the ANC, as required by law; 3) without undertaking an Environmental Impact Study (hereafter "EIS"), as required by law; 4) without undertaking an Environmental Assessment (hereafter "EA") as required by law, due to the designation of the subject property as "Historic"; and 5) in breach of implicit and explicit promises made, contrary to law.<sup>ii</sup>

The siting of the charter bus depot will create an environmental injustice in the Ivy City community. This community has already been burdened with numerous other noxious entities. The residents of Ivy City and its representatives were not informed of the siting of this charter bus depot. The siting of the charter bus depot without any notice or opportunity to comment abrogated the community's rights to public participation. The Gray Administration's claim to "One City" will not mean much if sections of the city are denied their opportunity to participate fully in the siting of controversial facilities.

The Ivy City community needs positive community development such as adult education, housing and jobs, not a contaminating bus depot that will threaten the health and welfare of the community. Best of luck with your efforts to halt this unwanted intrusion in this important and vital community.

Sincerely,

Leslie G. Fields

Director, Environmental Justice and Community Partnerships Program

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/>

<sup>ii</sup> Vaughn Bennett, et al. v. Union Station Development Corporation, et al.  
Civil Action Number 006027 B (D.C.Sup.Ct. filed July 26, 2012).