

Leonardine Coffman
Treasurer

Mattie Jenkins
Financial Secretary

Ferlicia M. Diggs
Church Clerk/Office Administrator

April 4, 2013

submitted by
Oakland Baptist Church

3408 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302
Pastor Don Hayes

(703) 998-9006 • (703) 671-4122 Fax
www.obenchrist.org

14
4-13-13
Andrew Parkler
Chairman Deacon Ministry

Charlene Bell-McKinley
Chairperson Deaconess Ministry

Michael K. Williams
Chairman Trustee Ministry

Brian Rahal
Civil Engineer III
Department of Transportation & Environmental Services
301 King Street, Suite 3200
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

RE: Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery Water Drainage Problems

Dear Mr. Rahal:

We thank you for meeting with us on March 27, 2013 concerning the continuing water drainage problems at our church cemetery in Fort Ward Park. Family members of relatives buried in the cemetery and members of our church are frustrated with the length of time it is taking to resolve these problems.

We understand that you and the City of Alexandria are willing to make modifications to the "Interim Storm Water Management Plan for Fort Ward Park" to address our continuing concerns. Further, we understand that you will:

- Notify the homeowners who live adjacent to Fort Ward Park, under the provisions of the existing city ordinance which addresses water running off their property onto others, that their storm water was flowing into the park and the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery. This runoff continues to cause damage to cemetery graves and grave stones.
- Look at ways to capture or redirect runoff from the properties of the Eugster-Weatherly; Fulton-O'Leary; Carroll; Sullivan- Kling; and Dilley and move it into the French drain system the city installed in the park maintenance yard. This would prevent their runoff from flowing through the park into the cemetery.
- Bury the above-ground drainage pipe, which runs adjacent to the Oakland Baptist Church Cemetery, so that it cannot be seen from the graveyard. The pipe should also be buried near the cemetery entrance and extended to the discharge area for the existing French drain. Since this part of the maintenance yard was filled, burying the pipe below grade should not impact graves.
- Provide church leaders with an opportunity to discuss plans for more permanent storm water management solutions with the consultant that will be hired soon. Our understanding is that the long-term project is to be funded this year and \$585,000 has been set aside for storm water management work in Fort Ward Park.

"To know God, follow Christ and share by the Spirit's Power"

We look forward to working with you and others in resolving these problems without further delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lena Rainey".

Lena Rainey

Member, Trustee Ministry
Oakland Baptist Church

Cc : Pastor Donald C. Hayes
Trustee Michael Williams
Deaconess Frances Terrell
Deacon Andrew Parker