

City Council of Alexandria, Virginia
October 13, 2018

Docket Item #9

Text Amendment #2018-0007 Lighting for Congregate Recreational Facilities

Good Morning

My name is Nancy Jennings and I live at 2115 Marlboro Drive. I am president of the Seminary Hill Association, Inc., and will speak on its behalf in opposition to this text amendment.

Earlier I sent to you the resolution Seminary Hill passed on September 23rd that requested this item be withdrawn from the docket and be subject first to public scrutiny and a vetting process by City officials.

I further argue that since four of you on Council are lame ducks—going off soon—you should not be making this decision.

This text amendment is a fast-tracked hidden effort to put stadium lights on the field at T. C. Williams High School—where they are not appropriate—and it has unintended consequences for neighborhoods throughout the whole City. This amendment will permit 80-foot lighting structures on every playing field—public or private—which by my count is 34—and on 18 dog parks. For the record, I will read only the fields:

1. Alexandria Country Day School
2. Angel Park—across the street from Councilman Chapman's home
3. Bishop Ireton High School—in Clover College Park near where Mark Jinks, the City Manager, lives
4. Carlyle Park
5. Chambliss Park
6. Chinquapin Park
7. Episcopal High School
8. Ewald Park
9. Founders Park
10. Four Mile Run Park
11. George Mason Park—in your area, Mayor Silberberg
12. George Washington Middle School—near the neighbors of Vice Mayor Wilson and Councilman Bailey
13. Grace Episcopal School
14. Hammond Middle School
15. Hunter/Miller Park
16. Immanuel Lutheran School
17. James Polk Elementary School
18. Jefferson Houston Elementary School
19. John Adams Park

20. Joseph Hensley Park
21. Lyles-Crouch School
22. Montgomery Park
23. Mount Vernon Rec Center
24. Nannie Lee Center
25. Parker Gay Stadium at T. C. Williams High School
26. Patrick Henry Elementary School
27. Potomac Yard Park
28. Powhatan Park
29. St. Stephens & St. Agnes Lower School—perhaps near Councilman Lovain's home
30. St. Stephens & St. Agnes Upper School
31. Stevenson Park
32. Taney Avenue Park
33. William Ramsay Elementary School
34. Windmill Hill Park

One of my neighbors argues that Fort Ward Park should be exempt from this Text Amendment because the Park has a management plan—worked out with City staff, neighbors, and the owners of the cemetery in the Park—that specifies a different process for proposed uses.

One could argue that the Parker Gray stadium at T. C. Williams should also be exempt from this Text Amendment because of Condition 85 in the DSUP that has been in effect since the creation of T. C.

I ask that you deny this amendment because it lacks both community outreach and input from property owners. Send it back to City officials for proper public scrutiny and possible limitations. Then after the election in November, the new Mayor and members of Council can revisit it taking into consideration the City's plans for locating new schools and the acquisition of new park and open spaces.

Thank you.

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Seminary Hill Association, Inc.

Re: Text Amendment #2018-0007 Lighting for Congregate Recreational Facilities

Whereas, the Alexandria Planning Commission is to consider on October 2 a text amendment to the Zoning Code entitled “Lighting for Congregate Recreational Facilities” that potentially could have adverse effects on virtually every neighborhood in the City of Alexandria; and

Whereas, this text amendment would permit 80-foot lighting structures on every playing field, public or private, over the entire City; and

Whereas, a sweeping change of this magnitude to the Zoning Ordinances normally requires considerable community outreach by the City and ample input by homeowners and others potentially affected before any formal action by the Planning Commission and City Council; and

Whereas, on this text amendment there appears to be a lack of transparency and a rush to judgment,

Now therefore: the Board of Directors of Seminary Hill Association, Inc., respectfully requests that the item be withdrawn from the Planning Commission docket of October 2, 2018 and be subject first to public scrutiny and a vetting process by City officials.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on September 23, 2018

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10-13-18

1000 North Vail Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
October 13, 2018

Mayor Silberberg, Members of Council, City Manager and Staff -

At a time when faith in government is deteriorating, I urge you to uphold your City's word and its written promise NOT to build lights at TC Williams (and other school athletic fields). Re-making school recreation facilities into night-time event centers with attendant activities damages a peaceful, quiet quality of life for residents of neighborhoods.

The City of Alexandria values its bond rating, a rating based on faith and proof to back it up that the City will not default on its financial obligations; in issuing bonds it has accurately described its need, worth, and capacity to repay.

With respect to neighborhoods that surround schools, the motion before you destroys any faith neighbors had in entering into an agreement with the City...as well as any belief that the City honors its commitments...especially to quality of life.

Granted...bond issuers and ratings agencies have more power than persons whose backyards and domestic privacy backs upon a school athletic field. What a vote in favor of lights says is "Power Prevails." Neighborhood people who put their faith in government do not prevail.

Putting our City in the latter camp...the camp that dishonors its word...our City - a national mecca - with its history of leading the citizenry in throwing off tyranny and removing oligarchs from power...damages our neighborhoods, our reputation, our brand...who knows, the shady art of **Let's Make a (Wink- Wink-, Fingers-Crossed) Deal** may well have a trickle up effect to the real power and damage our brand *aka* bond rating. After faith and trust are gone, who would want to invest in government...?

Vote No!

Carol James
cjcomm@cjcomm.com

10
10-13-18

Alexandria City Council
Development Special Use Permit #2017-0016
T.C. Williams High School Parker-Gray Stadium Modernization

October 13, 2018

Four Criteria that Must Be Satisfied for City Council to Grant a Special Use Permit

Zoning Ordinance § 11-504(A)(2)

- 1) The use for which a SUP is sought will not adversely affect the health or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed use.
- 2) The use will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood.
- 3) The use will substantially conform to the Master Plan of the City.
- 4) The applicant will comply with all regulations and provisions of law.

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Applicable law includes the **Alexandria City Noise Control Code**

Sec. 11-5-4 **Noises prohibited** – enumeration.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to make, continue, or cause to be made or continued any **excessive, unnecessary or unusually loud noise** or any **noise which unreasonably annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, health, safety, welfare, or environment of others**, within the limits of the city.

What is Unlawful Noise? – Includes but is not limited to assessment of these ten “standards”

1. **Level of noise** [TCW = high]
2. Whether the **nature of the noise** is usual or unusual [TCW = unusual]
3. Whether the **origin of the noise** is natural or unnatural [TCW = both]
4. **Proximity of noise to residential sleeping facilities** [TCW = close]
5. Nature and **zoning of the area** within which the noise emanates [TCW = R-20 residential]
6. **Density of inhabitation** of the area within which the noise emanates [TCW = dense]
7. **Time of day or night** the noise occurs [TCW = night]
8. **Duration of the noise** [TCW = every evening until 10 p.m. and later]
9. Whether the noise is **recurrent, intermittent or constant** [TCW = all of these]
10. Whether the **noise is produced by** a commercial or noncommercial entity [TCW = both]

Sec. 11-5-12 **Civil and Criminal Penalties** – Fines \$50 – \$500, criminal charges.

Each hour of violation is a separate offense. Sec. 11-5-13 **Injunction**

DEVELOPMENT SPECIAL USE PERMIT #2002-0044

3330 KING STREET
T.C. WILLIAMS HIGH SCHOOL

Excerpt – Report

Lighting

There is concern among neighbors that the new school will be built with increased lighting levels, and specifically about the potential for night athletic events at the stadium. The schools have agreed that there will be no permanent lighting installed at the stadium behind the schools, or on any of the athletic fields on the site, and a condition is included in staff's recommendation reflecting that agreement. General lighting at the school for security and convenience is also the subject of several of staff's recommended conditions. ACPS will be required to submit a detailed lighting plan as to all site lighting, and it will be available for review by neighbors. The conditions specifically address the need for a balance among security concerns, aesthetics and impacts on the neighbors. It is important for example that light fixtures be directed so as not to shine onto adjacent properties, and also so as not to create a beacon effect for the community.

Planning Commission

ACTION: RECOMMEND APPROVAL 7-0

City Council

ACTION: APPROVED January 26, 2004

<http://dockets.alexandriava.gov/icons/pz/pc/cy04/010604/di16.pdf>

TC Lights

Good Evening, I speak on behalf of the Seminary Civic Association, or those residents of Woods Avenue and Quaker Lane to let you know just how much we will be negatively impacted. How the quality of life for our community will be literally destroyed if lights are placed on the TC Stadium. It's practically unbearable there now. But first there seems to be some confusion over the fact that no document has come to light proving that there was an oral agreement in 1964 between the city, school and our community. Legally we're told that when two sides talk, work something out, and shake hands, that is an agreement. Additionally countless city documents refer to it so the no lights promise is in writing. Around 1963-4 certainly before the Civil Rights Act had been passed, a time when AA were not allowed to eat in the same restaurants, go to the same bathrooms, drink from the same water fountain, you certainly didn't consider us worthy of a legal document, but you respected our leaders, the Magnificent 7, they were the learned gentlemen from our community, Major Marion Johnson, Lawyer Melvin Miller, Ferdinand Day and Edward Patterson to name a few, who negotiated rigorously on our behalf, enough to at least agree to the no lights on the stadium which you honored for 39 years, from 1965 when the school was first built until it was rebuilt and enlarged in 04. Of course, in 2004 when our Bishop Lane neighbors were negatively impacted, a formal DSUP was developed incorporating the same promise of no lights, and again in 2013 when lights were added to the tennis court;

That said, With the inception of integration of the schools in the late 50's, you decided that there was no other land available in the city for a high school which was contrary to the expressions of State Senator Armistead L. Boothe. Senator Boothe who was working with and representing our community said, according to the Washington Post, that "there is plenty of free land in Alexandria, and there was no need for anybody to lose their land". Irrespective of that our property, property lived on and owned by our ancestors since or maybe even before the Civil War, was taken by eminent domain. Our property extending from Quaker & Johnson Lane (named for my grandparents) back to Chinguapin, cross King Street to Braddock Rd back over to King and Quaker. Oh, by the way, my husband's home address was 3330 King St, the exact address of TC Williams. We lost several families from the community and our vast amount of property was downsized to 31 homes most in a cul de sac. We've already made tremendous sacrifice for the students of TC Williams. We are the 4th and 5th generation of homeowners, and here you are again 53 years later after having given your word in 1965, in 2004 and as late as 2013. What you did in 1965 was wrong, and what ACPS is attempting to do to us again in 2018 is just as wrong.

Now, we hear all of the announcements, play by play, the band either during the game or for band practice in addition to the crowds, trash, traffic. We border the school, within feet, with nothing separating us but a chain link fence. Should you allow lights, we would be flooded by light to 10:00 practically every night making sleep impossible for the school age children as well as for those who work. We know you're even anticipating adding an 8th lane to the track making it accessible for state and national usage. Finally and most egregiously the lights would devalue our property. So we employ you to vote against the lights at TC. We employ you to stand up for our community. There are other places in the city to put a city stadium that can be used by the community. Do not once again tell us that we must sacrifice our homes and our lives for the city we have lived in for generations. Thank you

Frances Colbert Terrell, President Seminary Civic Association-City Council 10/13/2018

Marilyn Patterson

Homeowner on Woods Place (since April 1965)

5th Generation Alexandrian

Opposed to the erection of Lights at the Parker Gray Field at TC Williams High School

• **Emotionally charged subject -**

- To imply that for 53 years there has been no contractual agreement between the City, ACPS and the homeowners in this neighborhood is an insult to our intelligence and integrity.
- For 53 years that agreement has been upheld, but now a change in will is threatening and this longstanding agreement is on the verge of being dishonored

• **Generational Wealth -**

- This is a stable neighborhood of 32 privately owned homes. During the past 53 years only 10 homes have changed family ownership. The remaining 22 homes are still owner occupied by the original families.
- That is a 70% retention rate in this City that is known to be transient.
- We've born and buried generations in this neighborhood
- The value is in the land and changing the use of land that is adjacent to this neighborhood will impact the value of this property
- Impacting the value of this property will impact the value of the asset that we have to pass along to our future generations

• **Land Use -**

- Control the Calendar and Clock
- Include provision that limits the days and times that the field can be used
- "Friday Night Lights" - Use for TCW home football games only
- Don't move any day activity to night just because there are lights - continue full utilization of the other fields that are available for the variety of other sports
- Seek a solution that has a positive financial impact on these original homeowners

• **Timing of the Decision -**

- In less than 30 days elections will occur here in the city that will change the make up of the City Council and ACPS
- Don't repeat history and leave a new council and school board to inherit this decision to enforce

Speakers in Opposition

**Development Special Use Permit #2017-0016
T.C. Williams High School Parker-Gray Stadium Modernization**

**Before the Alexandria City Council
October 13, 2018**

Order of Speakers

(please keep speakers together in these groupings and in this order)

Fran Terrell
Adrienne Washington
Carol Johnson

Kody Snow
Lucy Thomson
Mimi Goff

George Bostick
Bob Long

Carter Flemming
Shawn Smeallie
Bill Goff

Frank Bires
Donnan C. Wintermute
Michael Bopp

David Curtin
Janice Smeallie
Arthur Peabody

End of all speakers for item #10

Phyllis Burks
Andrea Mackey

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10-13-18

Residential One-line Summary - Agent

Status	ML#	Address	List Price City	Adv Subdivision	Style	Type	BR	FB	HB	Lvls	Fpl	Bsmt	Lot Sqft
SOLD	AR10307645	3924 7th St S	\$747,000 Arlington	Alcova Heights	Cape Cod	Detached	3	3	0	3	1	Yes	8256
SOLD	AR10275542	1507 Monroe St	\$749,000 Arlington	Douglas Park New Arlington	Craftsman	Detached	4	3	0	3	0	Yes	6649
SOLD	AR10358494	4601 2nd St S	\$750,000 Arlington	N/A	Cape Cod	Detached	3	3	1	3	1	Yes	5981
SOLD	AR10262593	1114 17th St S	\$769,000 Arlington	Addison Heights	Bungalow	Detached	3	2	0	3	0	Yes	6000
SOLD	AR10252290	201 Ivy St	\$774,900 Arlington	Arlington Heights	Colonial	Detached	4	2	1	3	1	Yes	6945
SOLD	AR10277005	5213 11th St S	\$799,000 Arlington	Columbia Forest	Colonial	Detached	4	3	0	3	0	Yes	8275
SOLD	AR10298651	1027 19th St S	\$799,000 Arlington	Addison Heights	Cape Cod	Detached	3	4	0	3	1	Yes	5000
SOLD	AR10268738	1633 Taylor St	\$799,900 Arlington	Douglas Park	Colonial	Detached	4	3	1	3	1	Yes	5250
SOLD	AR10257698	2819 Arlington Ridge Rd	\$800,000 Arlington	Oakcrest	Colonial	Detached	3	2	2	3	1	Yes	5914
SOLD	AR10298002	800 S. Quincy St	\$815,000 Arlington	Alcova Heights	Colonial	Detached	3	2	1	3	1	Yes	6393
SOLD	AR10255275	1733 Quincy St S	\$849,000 Arlington	Douglas Park	Cape Cod	Detached	4	3	0	3	1	Yes	8240
SOLD	AR10306646	712 26th Pl S	\$874,950 Arlington	Aurora Hills	Cape Cod	Detached	5	3	0	3	1	Yes	7350
SOLD	AR10236380	4313 4th St S	\$879,000 Arlington	North Barcroft	Bungalow	Detached	3	3	1	3	0	Yes	18957
SOLD	AR10283576	4033 7th St S	\$899,990 Arlington	Alcova Heights	Bungalow	Detached	4	3	0	2	1	No	6687
SOLD	AR10234237	20 Garfield St S	\$978,500 Arlington	Arlington Heights	Cape Cod	Detached	3	3	0	3	1	Yes	6232
SOLD	AR10240661	304 Taylor St S	\$1,079,000 Arlington	North Barcroft Glen	Traditional	Detached	5	3	1	3	1	Yes	10400
SOLD	AR10258345	1703 Oakland St S	\$1,099,000 Arlington	Douglas Park New Arl.	Contemporary	Detached	4	4	1	4	1	Yes	12600
SOLD	AR10261937	2618 Ives St S	\$1,099,000 Arlington	Aurora Hills	Raised Rancher	Detached	5	4	0	2	2	Yes	22841
SOLD	AR10248791	1313 21st St S	\$1,150,000 Arlington	Arlington Ridge	Colonial	Detached	4	2	1	4	1	Yes	6480
SOLD	AR10184003	4831 8th St S	\$1,170,000 Arlington	Barcroft	Craftsman	Detached	5	4	1	3	1	Yes	6000
SOLD	AR10326735	2001 Knoll St S	\$1,200,000 Arlington	Addison Heights	Colonial	Detached	4	3	1	3	1	Yes	6000
SOLD	AR10117789	2343 Meade St S	\$1,250,000 Arlington	Arlington Ridge	Colonial	Detached	6	6	0	4	4	Yes	12260
SOLD	AR10125895	918 17th St S	\$1,499,000 Arlington	Aurora Highlands	Craftsman	Detached	5	4	1	3	1	Yes	6386

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Information is believed to be accurate, but should not be relied upon without verification.

Accuracy of square footage, lot size, schools and other information is not guaranteed.

Terms of Use

90 days of sales w/ wakefield High

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10-13-18

Wakefield High School 5201 28th St N, Arlington, VA 22207

Wakefield High School

Fraternal Organization

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Call

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Website

apsva.us

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Send feedback

Yahoo Help Privacy (Updated) Terms (Updated)



10
10-13-18

Lighting Comparison Chart

Site	Light Type	Lighting Foot Candles	Highest On-Field Foot Candle Reading	Property Line Foot Candle Reading (MAX HOR)	Kelvin Measurement	Lumens Output	Number of Luminaires	Luminaire Type
Williamsburg 80' Poles	LED	20 fc	36	0.06	5700 K	63,600	Field 1: 34 Field 2: 32	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 80' Poles	LED	30 fc	43	0.04	5700 K	63,600	Field 1: 46 Field 2: 38	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 80' Poles	HID	30 fc	43	1.74	4200K	134,000	Field 1: 28 Field 2: 28	1500 Watt HID
Williamsburg 70' Poles	LED	30 fc	52	0.01	5700K	65,400	Field 1: 44 Field 2: 36	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 68' Poles	LED	20 fc	48	0.14	5700K	63,600	Field 1: 34 Field 2: 32	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 68' Poles	LED	30 fc	56	0.26	5700K	63,600	Field 1: 46 Field 2: 38	228/216 LED
FedEx Field	HID	200 fc	226	NA	4200K	134,000	Field: 608	1500 Watt HID
Nationals Park	HID	300/250/225 fc	285	NA	4200K	134,000	Field: 714	1500 Watt HID
The Sun - Bright Day	Natural Light	10,000 fc	NA	NA	6000K	134,000	NA	NA
The Moon	Natural Light				4100K			

Lighting Term Definitions:

Lumens – The measure of the total quantity of visible light emitted by a source.

Foot Candles – The measure of illuminance or light intensity

Watts – The measure of derived unit of light power

Candela – The measure of luminous power per unit at a solid angle emitted by a point light source in a particular direction.

Kelvin – Color temperature appearance provided by a lightbulb, measured on a scale from 1,000 – 10,000.

Comparison: One foot-candle of light = the amount of light that a birthday cake candle generates one foot away.

Pam Cornele

10
10-13-18

Washington-Lee High School 1301 N Stafford St, Arling-

Washington-Lee High School

1 review on Yelp

High School

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Directions

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Website

apsva.us

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Reviews



Danny V.

11/29/2013

If you go for your diploma, you could join a steno pool. Turn in your teasin comb and go back to high school! - Selected lyrics from Beauty School Dropout from Grease the Musical It's an



Yorktown High School 5200 Yorktown Blvd, Arlington, VA 22207



Yorktown High School

1 review on Yelp

High School

Is this your business? Verify your listing

Directions

5200 Yorktown Blvd, Arlington, VA

Call

(703) 228-5400

Website

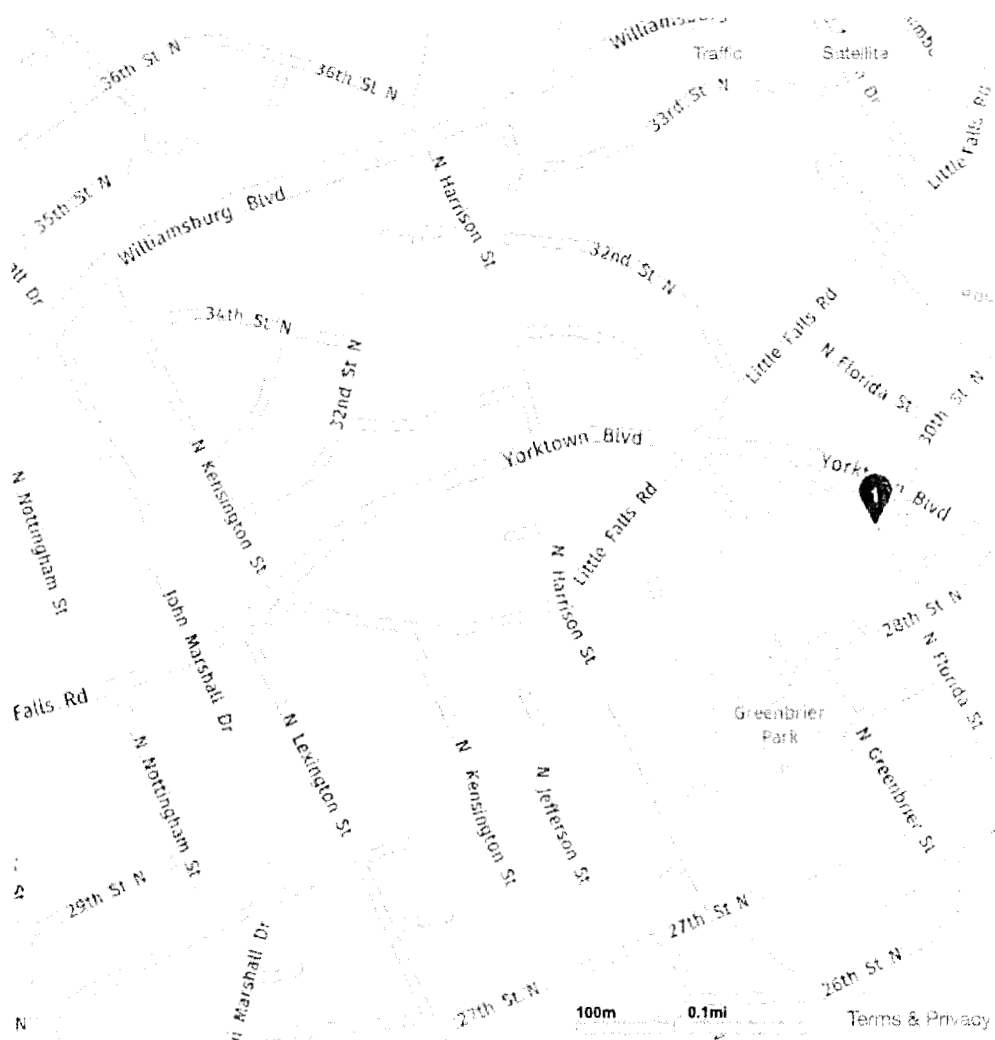
apsva.us

Yorktown High School | classmates.com

Classmates.com

Search Classmates® & Find Friends from High School, College or Work

Reviews



Residential One-line Summary - Agent

Status	ML#	Address	List Price City	Adv Subdivision	Style	Type	BR	FB	HB	Lvis	Fpi	Bsint	Lot	Soft
SOLD	AR10296054	3401 George Mason Dr N	\$979,900 Arlington	Stratford Hills	Rambler	Detached	4	3	0	2	1	Yes	11478	
SOLD	AR10314275	5600 Yorktown Blvd	\$995,000 Arlington	Rock Spring	Contemporary	Detached	4	3	1	2	2	Yes	13293	
SOLD	AR10161106	2420 Taylor St	\$999,000 Arlington	Lee Heights	Bilevel	Detached	4	2	0	2	1	No	13362	
SOLD	AR10291614	3829 25th St N	\$1,000,000 Arlington	Dover	Rancher	Detached	3	3	0	3	2	Yes	10496	
SOLD	AR10233513	4001 Woodstock St N	\$1,039,000 Arlington	Country Club Manors	Rambler	Detached	4	3	0	2	2	Yes	10473	
SOLD	AR10264046	6301 27th St N	\$1,049,000 Arlington	Berkshire Oakwood	Colonial	Detached	4	3	1	3	1	Yes	5366	
SOLD	AR10248971	6807 30th Rd N	\$1,049,900 Arlington	Westmoreland Park	Rambler	Detached	4	3	1	2	1	Yes	10190	
SOLD	AR10173976	508 Highland St	\$1,050,000 Arlington	Lyon Park	Colonial	Detached	10	4	0	3	0	Yes	7812	
SOLD	AR10276375	1405 Jefferson St	\$1,050,000 Arlington	Tara Wynnewood	Colonial	Detached	4	3	1	3	2	Yes	15346	
SOLD	AR10270385	2114 Pollard St N	\$1,065,000 Arlington	Cherrydale/Maywood	Farm House	Detached	3	3	0	4	1	Yes	12923	
SOLD	AR10298373	2915 George Mason Dr N	\$1,075,000 Arlington	Shirley Woods	Split Foyer	Detached	4	3	0	2	1	No	10753	
SOLD	AR10235597	6000 Little Falls Rd	\$1,095,000 Arlington	Fallview	Colonial	Detached	3	4	0	3	2	Yes	13628	
SOLD	AR10269569	3205 Pershing Dr	\$1,098,000 Arlington	Ashton Heights	Bungalow	Detached	5	3	0	3	1	Yes	15772	
SOLD	AR10313652	2152 Quebec St N	\$1,099,000 Arlington	Cherrydale	Craftsman	Detached	7	5	1	4	1	Yes	5000	

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Information is believed to be accurate, but should not be relied upon without verification.

Accuracy of square footage, lot size, schools and other information is not guaranteed.

[Terms of Use](#)

Homes sold in past 90 days
w/ Yorktown & Washington hce

10
10-13-18

10/13/18

Statement of George H. Bostick, Neighbor

920 Vicar Lane

Regarding T.C. Williams Stadium Lights and Utilization

My name is George Bostick. My wife and I have lived in Alexandria for 44 years and at our current residence, a few hundred feet from Parker-Gray stadium, since 1986. Both our son and our daughter graduated from T.C.

I will talk about process failures that resulted in the proposal in front of you. To avoid duplication, others will speak to fallacies in the arguments for the proposal, the detriments and costs the proposal would impose, and –even putting aside momentarily the long-standing promise not to install permanent lights at the stadium – the proposal’s illegality.

The promise made when T.C. was first built on land that was taken from families that had lived on it for generations has been honored for 50 years. It was incorporated as an express condition of the DSUP governing the building of the new T.C. Williams campus in 2004 and retained when the DSUP was modified in 2013 to allow limited lighting of the tennis courts.

So by what process did we reach a point at which the City Council is asked to break the promise and allow use of a lighted stadium extremely close to residential areas until 10:15 every night except Sunday all year long?

First, we arrived here because ACPS in the 2004 DSUP needed for building a new campus chose to leave the stadium immediately adjacent to residential neighborhoods. This original location probably made sense, since the field provides a buffer of sorts between the school and the neighborhoods. But it only makes sense if the field is used only during the day – not when the neighbors are attempting to enjoy a quiet night, study, work or sleep. When building the new campus, ACPS could have relocated the stadium to the commercially oriented King Street side of the property. Rather than doing so, it chose to honor the promise by incorporating the DSUP condition prohibiting permanent lighting of the stadium.

Second, we are here because ACPS limited the mandate of the ACPS Stadium Modernization Project working group. Given the issue’s history, the logical course would have been to look first for alternative locations for a lighted city stadium. But when I and others asked, we were told by the working group that they were directed to study only what could be done with the existing stadium and had not considered alternatives. This seems an irrational approach to planning.

Third, while the ACPS group soliciting input through Community Meetings (and having effectively been told to light the stadium) may have been trying their best, that process was also badly flawed. Communication with neighbors was haphazard at best. Community Meetings were often scheduled with short notice, and generally with no direct notice, at least to those of us adversely affected but who are not among the “only 17” residences cited by ACPS as directly adjoining the field.

When able to attend the meetings, I and others repeatedly asked about proposed utilization of the field. Utilization was the critical question. If we were talking only about “Friday Night Lights” for a limited

number of T.C. home athletic events, there would be few objections. The repeated ACPS response was that a proposed utilization schedule was under consideration and would be discussed at the “next meeting”. In fact, it never was: we finally saw the proposed utilization schedule only when the ACPS request to amend the existing DSUP was docketed shortly before the October 2 Planning Commission meeting, and even that schedule was then modified in the course of the meeting to extend weekday lighting hours until 10:15 p.m., allegedly for Title IX reasons. The proposed utilization schedule strongly suggests that adult soccer leagues and others renting the stadium, rather than T.C. students, will be the primary beneficiaries of the lights.

Finally, even if this were a sound proposal, approving it now would be imprudent. T.C. is badly overcrowded and the overcrowding is projected to become worse. ACPS has embarked on a project to study whether and where to build another high school. If, as seems likely, a new high school is constructed, it would represent a new opportunity to keep the city’s promise by building a lighted stadium that is not located within yards of residential neighborhoods. Even if the decision is to somehow expand T.C., a lighted city stadium elsewhere away from residential areas would better serve the need for additional athletic field time for school and community use. City Council approval at this point would inevitably distort these decisions or lead to wasteful redundancy.

Waiting for the ACPS study would also allow time to remedy the prior failures to study alternative locations and to obtain meaningful neighborhood input on utilization.

The cost of a properly located stadium to provide additional lighted field time for schools and the community would be fairly borne by all Alexandria citizens. In stark contrast, the proposal before you unfairly imposes the primary costs and detriments only on the neighborhoods in close proximity to the stadium.

Promises matter; process matters; fairness matters; the law matters. You should not approve the current lighting and utilization proposals.

Thank you.

10
10-13-18

1000 North Vail Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22304
October 13, 2018

Mayor Silberberg, Members of Council, City Manager and Staff -

At a time when faith in government is deteriorating, I urge you to uphold your City's word and its written promise NOT to build lights at TC Williams (and other school athletic fields). Re-making school recreation facilities into night-time event centers with attendant activities damages a peaceful, quiet quality of life for residents of neighborhoods.

The City of Alexandria values its bond rating, a rating based on faith and proof to back it up that the City will not default on its financial obligations; in issuing bonds it has accurately described its need, worth, and capacity to repay.

With respect to neighborhoods that surround schools, the motion before you destroys any faith neighbors had in entering into an agreement with the City...as well as any belief that the City honors its commitments...especially to quality of life.

Granted...bond issuers and ratings agencies have more power than persons whose backyards and domestic privacy backs upon a school athletic field. What a vote in favor of lights says is "Power Prevails." Neighborhood people who put their faith in government do not prevail.

Putting our City in the latter camp...the camp that dishonors its word...our City - a national mecca - with its history of leading the citizenry in throwing off tyranny and removing oligarchs from power...damages our neighborhoods, our reputation, our brand...who knows, the shady art of **Let's Make a (Wink- Wink-, Fingers-Crossed) Deal** may well have a trickle up effect to the real power and damage our brand aka bond rating. After faith and trust are gone, who would want to invest in government...?

Vote No!

Carol James
cjcomm@cjcomm.com

Carter Flemming
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10-13-18

City Council Testimony
October 13, 2018
DSUP #2017-0016
Parker Gray Stadium Modernization

Thank you Madam Mayor and Members of Council. My name is Carter Flemming and I am speaking today on behalf of the Seminary Hill Association. I want to thank the members of Council who took the time to come to our neighborhoods and observe the physical proximity of Parker Gray Stadium. You have done what no TCW or ACPS representative has ever done, despite neighbors' repeated requests to meet on the other side of the chain link fence.

Walk down the hall at TC Williams and you will see the large gold letters on the wall that read "Fulfill the Promise." It is an uplifting message for our students.

Seminary Hill Association finds it hard to reconcile this noble commitment to keeping promises with the fact that we find ourselves here today to defend a decades-old promise which ACPS has now decided not to honor. The ACPS lesson to Alexandria students is that you only "Fulfill the Promises" you want to keep, but you break your promise when you get a new idea or pressure to change.

The yard signs placed by stadium supporters state, "The Promise is for the Students" in an Orwellian mockery of the no-lights promise made to residents. We ask where is the

promise written that students must have a lighted field? The VA Department of Education does not have any requirements for the provision of fields, lit or unlit, at public schools. Generations of graduates from all four high schools in Alexandria have succeeded without having lighted fields.

We are appalled that city officials and staff now inform us that no provision in any DSUP is ever a promise to citizens. Our civic association and others throughout the city spend countless hours attending meetings and working out agreements that are formalized in DSUPs for development projects. If these negotiated terms and conditions are not promises, what are they? Empty words to temporarily placate citizens?

I served on the committee at TCW that worked out the terms of the 2004 DSUP. I can assure you that this was not a case where school neighbors were somehow able to hoodwink the entire unwilling city and school system hierarchy to include this condition in the DSUP. This agreement was an acknowledgement and codification of the long-standing promise to the Woods Avenue community, and the recognition by the school architects and builders that Parker-Gray was and is a completely inappropriate location for a major lighted sports stadium.

Seminary Hill Association and the neighbors did not oppose any of the variances and zoning changes that the school required in order to construct its much larger

footprint, and we trusted that with Condition 85 ACPS would uphold its promise to protect our neighborhoods.

Now ACPS has reneged on its side of the bargain. ACPS offers a new promise to be respectful of neighbors. Superintendent Hutchings' column in this week's Alexandria Times entitled, "Rebuilding Trust Starts Now", rings hollow to Seminary Hill in light of this massive breach of trust with neighbors. Words do not rebuild trust – actions do. And the action being proposed by ACPS today shows absolutely no trust or respect to those most affected by this proposal.

Just how hollow those words are can readily be seen in the proposed radical intensification of use of the stadium. The stadium is going to be available year round to non-school uses under the sub rosa direction of the Rec Department. Lights and loudspeakers until 10:15 PM six nights a week and 8:30 PM on Sundays. Weekend rentals. Regional events without limit. This is not a high school stadium.

What ACPS now proposes is a Pay to Play All Region Stadium in the least appropriate location one could find in the city limits. It is the only location in the list of city lighted fields that carries an R-20 zoning.. The fact that the lights and sound system can be used every Friday and Saturday night until 10:00 pm under the guise of student athletics is totally outrageous.

Seminary Hill simply cannot overstate the incredibly devastating impact this would have on the ability of our

residents to enjoy their homes, their yards, and their lives. Please vote against approving this very flawed and destructive DSUP. Take the time and effort to find the right location for the Regional Stadium the city seeks to create with this proposal.

Carter Flemming
1403 Bishop Lane
703-461-9099
carterflemming@gmail.com

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10-13-18

Field Sizes T.C. Williams High school –Comparison on acreage state
recommendation for a high school is 25 acres

✓ 1. T.C. Williams	19A	
✓ 2. Lake Braddock	40A	110% > T.C
✓ 3. West Springfield	39A	110%>T.C.
✓ 4. Edison	43A	126.3>T.C.
✓ 5. McClean H.S.	34A	78 > T.C.
6. Robinson H.S.	68A	257% >T.C.
7. Osborn Park	60A	257%> T.C.
8. West Potomac	26A	42.1%>T.C.
9. Mt Vernon	40A	110 >T.C.
✓ 10. Hayfield	58A	205>T.C.
✓ 11. Yorktown (excavation)	22A	15.7> T.C.
12. Garfield	91A	379%> T.C.
13. Washington /Lee	23 A	21% > T.C.
14. Wakefield H.S.	38 A	100% >T.C.
15. Bishop O'Connell	17A	-10 < T.C.

(Neighbors and school voted no for lights--- stadium too small-
Excessive glare is the issue as well as noise)

Most of these fields they were built in the 1950's—60's ,70's 80's--- they were the first footprint in the area--- the neighborhoods would come later knowing that there would be lighted fields for athletics. T.C. Williams School is an exception— 95 % of the neighborhood existed before the high school arrived. The field is too small to accommodate noise and lights—too dark to prevent catastrophic glare— too close to the field to prevent intense noise from the Public address, the band and the crowd

Alexandria City Council

October 13, 2018

Devaluation of Real Estate in Contiguous Neighborhoods

Good Morning,

I am Donnie Wintermute and I live at 915 Vicar Lane. I have been a real estate broker in Alexandria for 40 years. I would like to talk to you this morning about the economic impact of the proposed 80-foot stadium lights on the property values of the surrounding homes on Woods Place, Woods Avenue, Bishop Lane and Vicar Lane.

In a nutshell... I think the impact would be catastrophic. No one wants to live next door to an airport... no one wants to live next door to train tracks... and no one wants to live next door to stadium lighting with 80 foot poles (as high as a seven story building) with excessive glare and loud noise well in to the evening hours every night of the week.

Although there is no specific scientific data in Alexandria quantifying the devaluation of real estate resulting from contiguous stadium lighting, I am basing my

analysis on my many years of experience in the real estate business. I would conservatively estimate that the loss of property value to Bishop Lane homeowners on the north side of the street (those directly behind the proposed stadium lighting) to be 25% of their current value. I would estimate that the properties on the south side of Bishop Lane... and all of the properties on Vicar Lane... would suffer a 15% - 20% loss of property value.

Likewise, the residents of Woods Place and Woods Avenue would suffer a loss in market value in the range of 15% - 20%.

As you know... Section 11-504 of the City Code states that City Council may approve an application for a SUP if it finds that "the use for which the permit is sought will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood." Clearly granting a permit for the 80 foot stadium lights would be injurious to the value of the properties in the neighborhood... as well as to our quality of life.

It is also important to keep in mind that the devaluation of our property values will also adversely impact the city with a significant reduction of property tax revenue.

The residents of Woods Place, Woods Avenue, Bishop Lane and Vicar Lane pride themselves on having well-maintained, conveniently located and highly desirable homes. With the proposed stadium lighting, the character of these neighborhoods would be drastically changed. The quality of life would be irreversibly damaged.

Alexandria is a wonderful city... I strongly recommend that you use the \$4.2 million dollars for the EDUCATION of our children ... and NOT for the destruction of our neighborhoods.

PLEASE adhere to Section 11-504 of the City's Zoning Code and vote NO to the installation of stadium lights at T.C Williams.

Thank you.

Donnan C. Wintermute
donnanwintermute@aol.com
703-608-6868 (c)

Marilyn Patterson

Homeowner on Woods Place (since April 1965)

5th Generation Alexandrian

Opposed to the erection of Lights at the Parker Gray Field at TC Williams High School

• **Emotionally charged subject -**

- To imply that for 53 years there has been no contractual agreement between the City, ACPS and the homeowners in this neighborhood is an insult to our intelligence and integrity.
- For 53 years that agreement has been upheld, but now a change in will is threatening and this longstanding agreement is on the verge of being dishonored

• **Generational Wealth -**

- This is a stable neighborhood of 32 privately owned homes. During the past 53 years only 10 homes have changed family ownership. The remaining 22 homes are still owner occupied by the original families.
- That is a 70% retention rate in this City that is known to be transient.
- We've born and buried generations in this neighborhood
- The value is in the land and changing the use of land that is adjacent to this neighborhood will impact the value of this property
- Impacting the value of this property will impact the value of the asset that we have to pass along to our future generations

• **Land Use -**

- Control the Calendar and Clock
- Include provision that limits the days and times that the field can be used
- "Friday Night Lights" - Use for TCW home football games only
- Don't move any day activity to night just because there are lights - continue full utilization of the other fields that are available for the variety of other sports
- Seek a solution that has a positive financial impact on these original homeowners

• **Timing of the Decision -**

- In less than 30 days elections will occur here in the city that will change the make up of the City Council and ACPS
- Don't repeat history and leave a new council and school board to inherit this decision to enforce

TC Lights

Good Evening, I speak on behalf of the Seminary Civic Association, or those residents of Woods Avenue and Quaker Lane to let you know just how much we will be negatively impacted. How the quality of life for our community will be literally destroyed if lights are placed on the TC Stadium. It's practically unbearable there now. But first there seems to be some confusion over the fact that no document has come to light proving that there was an oral agreement in 1964 between the city, school and our community. Legally we're told that when two sides talk, work something out, and shake hands, that is an agreement. Additionally countless city documents refer to it so the no lights promise is in writing. Around 1963-4 certainly before the Civil Rights Act had been passed, a time when AA were not allowed to eat in the same restaurants, go to the same bathrooms, drink from the same water fountain, you certainly didn't consider us worthy of a legal document, but you respected our leaders, the Magnificent 7, they were the learned gentlemen from our community, Major Marion Johnson, Lawyer Melvin Miller, Ferdinand Day and Edward Patterson to name a few, who negotiated rigorously on our behalf, enough to at least agree to the no lights on the stadium which you honored for 39 years, from 1965 when the school was first built until it was rebuilt and enlarged in 04. Of course, in 2004 when our Bishop Lane neighbors were negatively impacted, a formal DSUP was developed incorporating the same promise of no lights, and again in 2013 when lights were added to the tennis court;

That said, With the inception of integration of the schools in the late 50's, you decided that there was no other land available in the city for a high school which was contrary to the expressions of State Senator Armistead L. Boothe. Senator Boothe who was working with and representing our community said, according to the Washington Post, that "there is plenty of free land in Alexandria, and there was no need for anybody to lose their land". Irrespective of that our property, property lived on and owned by our ancestors since or maybe even before the Civil War, was taken by eminent domain. Our property extending from Quaker & Johnson Lane (named for my grandparents) back to Chinguapin, cross King Street to Braddock Rd back over to King and Quaker. Oh, by the way, my husband's home address was 3330 King St, the exact address of TC Williams. We lost several families from the community and our vast amount of property was downsized to 31 homes most in a cul de sac. We've already made tremendous sacrifice for the students of TC Williams. We are the 4th and 5th generation of homeowners, and here you are again 53 years later after having given your word in 1965, in 2004 and as late as 2013. What you did in 1965 was wrong, and what ACPS is attempting to do to us again in 2018 is just as wrong.

Now, we hear all of the announcements, play by play, the band either during the game or for band practice in addition to the crowds, trash, traffic. We border the school, within feet, with nothing separating us but a chain link fence. Should you allow lights, we would be flooded by light to 10:00 practically every night making sleep impossible for the school age children as well as for those who work. We know you're even anticipating adding an 8th lane to the track making it accessible for state and national usage. Finally and most egregiously the lights would devalue our property. So we employ you to vote against the lights at TC. We employ you to stand up for our community. There are other places in the city to put a city stadium that can be used by the community. Do not once again tell us that we must sacrifice our homes and our lives for the city we have lived in for generations. Thank you

Frances Colbert Terrell, President Seminary Civic Association-City Council 10/13/2018

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10-13-18

**Statement of T.C. Williams Neighbor Robert A. Long, Jr.
Concerning Development Special Use Permit #2017-0016
T.C. Williams High School Parker-Gray Stadium Modernization**

**before the Alexandria City Council
October 13, 2018**

Mayor Silberberg and Members of the Council:

I am Robert Long. My wife Eleanor and I have lived in the T.C. Williams neighborhood for more than 20 years. My wife volunteers at the school, and we contribute to the college scholarship fund. We support T.C. Williams and its students. But we strongly urge you to vote against this application.

By law, the Council may approve an application for a special use permit only if it finds that granting the permit “will not be detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the neighborhood.” Zoning Ordinance § 11-504(A)(2). The record does not support such a finding in this case.

1. The proposed use would be “injurious to property ... in the neighborhood.”

The T.C. Williams athletic field is located in a single-family residential (R-20) zone. Homes directly adjoin the field -- there is virtually no buffer zone.

a. Lights

The application proposes to erect *80-foot* poles. That is double the height limit for a residential neighborhood. Eighty-foot poles will tower over the nearby houses and dominate the neighborhood.

The application focuses primarily on light “spillage,” even though glare is a more serious problem. The application says that 80-foot poles will result in less glare than 60 foot poles, but does not say whether the glare from either option will be injurious to property. There are several

ways of measuring harm from glare (including Unified Glare Rating, Glare Index, and Visual Comfort Probability). At a minimum, the applicant should provide this critical information before Council approves this proposal.

b. Noise

The application focuses on whether the proposed sound system would violate the City's noise ordinance. But as anyone from the neighborhood can attest, events on the field are very noisy even when the sound system is not turned on. The application says only that landscaping is "expected" to "partially" mitigate "some" of this noise. Application, p. 14. That falls well short of a showing that there will be no injury to property from noise.

One of the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance is that an application for a special use permit must include "plans to control noise levels emanating from patrons." § 11-503(4). The application recognizes that there will be "field/game noise," "spectator noise," and "band noise" (for certain athletic events), but it says only that the noise will be controlled "by hours of operation and allowed uses." Page 116. That is not a plan (let alone an adequate plan) for controlling noise *during* the proposed hours of use, when *all* of these noises would be allowed.

c. Hours of Use

The proposal is for usage seven days a week, 365 days a year, with lights on until as late as 10:30 pm six nights of the week. This is a dramatic intensification of the current use of the field, and it is not compatible with the residential neighborhood in which the field is located.

If a private business sought a special use permit to erect 80-foot structures, turn on extremely bright lights, and conduct noisy events until 10 or 10:30 every night, the proposal would not be approved. The same legal standard applies when the applicant is a school.

On this record, the Council cannot reasonably find that the proposal will not be injurious to property in the neighborhood.

2. The proposed use would be “detrimental to the public welfare”

Giving T.C. Williams students opportunities to play football games and other sporting events under lights is a worthwhile goal. My wife and I will support any reasonable proposal to achieve this goal. But more is at stake here, and this is not a reasonable proposal.

Sixty years ago, the City Government devastated a century-old African-American neighborhood in order to clear a site for T.C. Williams High School. The City built the athletic field much too close to the remnant of that neighborhood, but promised not to light the field. It renewed that promise when the school was rebuilt.

Now, City officials are proposing to do exactly what the City repeatedly promised not to do. Approving that proposal would be detrimental to the public welfare.

It is detrimental to the public welfare to compound the serious injury the City has already inflicted on an historic African-American community.

It is detrimental to the public welfare for the City to go back on its commitment to the community.

This need not be, and should not be, an either-or choice between inflicting a new injury on an historic Alexandria community and denying T.C. Williams students an opportunity to play sports on a lighted field. There are other possible solutions that can be, and should be, explored. These include other possible sites for a lighted field and temporary lights for selected athletic events at Parker-Gray Stadium. As dedicated public servants, it is your obligation to work towards such a solution, and to reject a proposal that has such very problematic consequences.

During the discussions on this proposal, a senior school official suggested that a plaque might be erected on the school grounds to tell the story of the wrong that was done to the community when the City built T.C. Williams High School. If the Council approves this proposal, it will add a new chapter to that story. That should not happen here in Alexandria in 2018.

I strongly urge you to reject this application.

City Council of Alexandria, Virginia
October 13, 2018

Docket Item #10
DSUP #2017-0016, Parker Gray Stadium Modernization

Good Morning

My name is Nancy Jennings and I live at 2115 Marlboro Drive. I am president of the Seminary Hill Association, Inc., but I will yield the five minutes given to my group to our vice president Carter Flemming and only speak for three.

Earlier I sent a resolution to you that Seminary Hill passed on September 23rd in opposition to the repeal of Condition 85 of the DSUP for T. C. Williams High School that bans permanent lights on the field at Parker-Gray Stadium.

I further argue that this change to the DSUP will set an unwanted precedent to abolish the City's DSUP process itself and will lead to the abrogation of any DSUP without regard to negative impacts on neighboring properties, including financial costs.

As many of you know, Seminary Hill Association is an umbrella organization that represents nine neighborhoods with a total of about 2,000 property owners. The homes on Woods Avenue and Woods Place—once derogatorily referred to as “Mud Town”—is represented by Seminary Civic Association, one of these nine groups—we know it as Area 1—and you will hear from their members, as well. Let me just say, they have suffered enough, do not intensify the assault on them by allowing 80-foot lights to be put in their backyards.

As a former history teacher, I must note that the Seminary Civic Association represents an historic community with families that settled near Fort Ward during the Civil War and were moved in the 1960s to make way for a park and then moved again in the 1970s to make way for T. C. Williams. The pledge by the ACPS that is expressed in Condition #85—to not put lights on the school's playing field—is decades old and must be respected and sustained. In the past four decades, it has been reaffirmed twice. If you want to remember the Titans accurately, you would build a stadium with lights where they played back in the 1970s NOT at Parker-Gray.

While the lights in themselves would be ugly and intrusive, our main concern about lighting this field is that it will increase the intensity of its usage. The noise from the field NOW is often unbearable, such as the whistles during all-day track meets and whenever the sound system is used. The sound system blasts into not only the neighboring homes but also those of the faculty across Quaker Lane and up the hill on The Episcopal High School campus. Other problems related to the field include the dearth of parking, trash, drinking, students climbing over the fence and cutting through private property, and couples having sex within view of the neighbors. Putting lights on this field would destroy any quality of life now enjoyed by my neighbors because their problems with this field would extend past sunset, 365 nights a year, until 10 pm.

Please do NOT abolish the DSUP process that has protected the quality of life on Seminary Hill—and elsewhere in the City—and honor the agreement made with us by retaining Condition 85 that prohibits stadium lights on this playing field. Then begin plans to build a new stadium with us and the newly elected members of Council.

Thank you.

Resolution of the Board of Directors of Seminary Hill Association, Inc.

Re: DSUP #2017-0016, Parker Gray Stadium Modernization

Be it resolved: The Board of Directors of the Seminary Hill Association, Inc., a civic association representing more than 2,000 homes, strongly supports the residents of the Woods neighborhood and other neighbors in opposing the repeal of Condition #85 of the DSUP for T.C. Williams High School, that bans permanent lights at Parker-Gray Stadium. Given the hours of operation proposed by the ACPS for the stadium, if lighting is approved, it is clear that homeowners adjacent to or near the stadium will have their quality of life and their enjoyment of property affected adversely and massively. The pledge by the ACPS that is expressed in Condition #85 must be respected and sustained.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on September 23, 2018.

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10-13-18

Lighting Comparison Chart ✓✓

Site	Light Type	Lighting Foot Candles	Highest On-Field Foot Candle Reading	Property Line Foot Candle Reading (MAX HOR)	Kelvin Measurement	Lumens Output	Number of Luminaires	Luminaire Type
Williamsburg 80' Poles	LED	20 fc	36	0.06	5700 K	63,600	Field 1: 34 Field 2: 32	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 80' Poles	LED	30 fc	43	0.04	5700 K	63,600	Field 1: 46 Field 2: 38	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 80' Poles	HID	20 fc	43	1.74	4200K	134,000	Field 1: 28 Field 2: 28	1500 Watt HID
Williamsburg 80' Poles	HID	30 fc	52	0.01	5700K	65,400	Field 1: 44 Field 2: 36	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 70' Poles	LED	20 fc	48	0.14	5700K	63,600	Field 1: 34 Field 2: 32	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 70' Poles	LED	30 fc	56	0.26	5700K	63,600	Field 1: 46 Field 2: 38	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 68' Poles	LED	20 fc	48	0.14	5700K	63,600	Field 1: 34 Field 2: 32	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 68' Poles	LED	30 fc	56	0.26	5700K	63,600	Field 1: 46 Field 2: 38	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 68' Poles	HID	20 fc	48	0.14	5700K	63,600	Field 1: 34 Field 2: 32	228/216 LED
Williamsburg 68' Poles	HID	30 fc	56	0.26	5700K	63,600	Field 1: 46 Field 2: 38	228/216 LED
⚡ FedEx Field	HID	200 fc	226	NA	⚡ 4200K	134,000	Field: 608	1500 Watt HID
⚡ Nationals Park	HID	300/250/225 fc	285	NA	⚡ 4200K	134,000	Field: 714	1500 Watt HID
⚡ The Sun - Bright Day	Natural Light	10,000 fc	NA	NA	⚡ 6000K	134,000	NA	NA
The Moon	Natural Light				4100K			

Lighting Term Definitions:

Lumens – The measure of the total quantity of visible light emitted by a source.

Foot Candles – The measure of illuminance or light intensity

Watts – The measure of derived unit of light power

Candela – The measure of luminous power per unit at a solid angle emitted by a point light source in a particular direction.

Kelvin – Color temperature appearance provided by a lightbulb, measured on a scale from 1,000 – 10,000.

Comparison: One foot-candle of light = the amount of light that a birthday cake candle generates one foot away.

October 4, 2018

Dear Madam Mayor and Members of Council:

I am writing today in support of the plans to improve the Parker-Gray Stadium at T.C. Williams High School (DUP 2017-0016). The planned improvements, including lighting the field, are important not only for our student athletes and groups like the marching band but for the overall student body and spectators alike. It is our responsibility to provide a safe and suitable environment at the stadium and these improvements meet these goals.

As you know I spent three years as the Athletic Director at TC during the years when we had no field whatsoever due to construction of the new school. During those years all outdoor games and practices were held off-campus and in some cases outside of the city limits of Alexandria. I know firsthand the scheduling difficulties and transportation problems associated with conducting practice and events off-campus, and while some of those problems have been eased with the return of the Parker-Gray field, we still have limitations with scheduling due to the fact that games and practices can only be held during daylight hours. I might add that TC Williams is the ONLY public high school in the region where the athletic fields are not lighted.

Having lights on the field will enable sporting events, both boys and girls (especially important under Title IX) to be held at TC. Also of significance will be that many practices can now be brought back to the school whereas today they are conducted on recreation fields throughout the City thereby freeing those fields for use by groups such as the Alexandria Soccer Association whose participation has grown from 1900 players to over 5000 players in the last five years. Alexandria Little League and Alexandria Lacrosse have also seen participation grow which has put added pressure on community fields and we need to seek solutions to reduce this pressure and a more optimized and lighted field at TC Williams will help in this regard.

I might note that in my opinion much of the growth in youth sports and for that matter in our school enrollment is due to efforts by past and current Councils which have made our community more family-friendly. Projects like engineered fields and turf improvements, new and renovated recreation centers, new and renovated schools, new and improved libraries have all played a role in making Alexandria more family-friendly and the improvements and lighted field at TC will help continue this trend of being welcoming to families and children.

We have a first-class building at T.C. Williams, a building which brings us a lot of pride not only as a facility but in the students who are educated there. However, the Parker Gray Stadium is substandard at best. I traveled to many Northern Virginia schools as the AD oftentimes there to support our TC Titans as they competed in a variety of sports. At all of these schools I witnessed nice, safe facilities which included ticket booths, restrooms, concession stands and lighted fields for competition. Yet when home at TC we found tickets being sold from folding tables, port-a-potties as restrooms, makeshift concession stands lacking running water and a field lacking lights which sometimes meant games could hardly be completed before darkness fell.

You have before you a land-use decision and application which will cure these deficiencies and put TC Williams on par with every other public school in Northern Virginia. I feel it is long overdue that TC Williams should have these same quality facilities and that our students and our athletes will no longer

be treated as second class citizens and will now have the same equal opportunity and equal experience as every other high schooler in the region.

As a citizen I participated in many of the community planning meetings which sought input and concerns from citizens over the planned improvements to the stadium at TC. In my opinion that process worked and the resulting plans before you today are the result of taking many concerns into consideration and developing planned improvements to the site that addressed these concerns. For example:

- Relocated scoreboard to opposite end of the field away from homes
- Relocated concession stand away from homes (120 foot setback from property line versus existing 29 foot setback)
- New storage building and with new bathroom facilities, which have been located furthest away from homes
- New storage building
- Relocated press box to the opposite side of the field which will direct sound away from homes
- Acoustical analysis to optimize sound system to address noise (there are also conditions 128 and 129 in the DSUP staff report regulating noise by reference back to the noise ordinance)
- Photometric analysis to optimize light location and height to address spillover and glare (This analysis resulted in the text amendment to allow lights to go to 80 feet vs 60 feet with a special use permit to reduce impacts, as well as conditions 123-127 in the DSUP staff report to regulate light)

I fully support these provisions which will make the project less intrusive and I would further suggest that additional landscaping and a companion maintenance program will also further mitigate impacts.

It is important to point out that we are talking about one field at TC and admittedly some of the bordering properties are single-family homes. However the same conditions exists at many schools in Northern Virginia and all of these schools have multiple fields – baseball, football, softball and other rectangular fields – which are lighted and have even more potential impacts. Yet these schools coexist with their neighbors and I fully expect that Alexandria and TC Williams can do the same.

Alexandria is an urban environment and our ability to use the land within the City is limited and with competing demands. We must look to maximize the flexibility of how the land and especially public facilities are used by our citizens. Most notably Arlington, a similar urban community, with three high schools has found ways to have lighted high school fields (and other fields) and to function successfully with nearby residents and businesses.

I feel we should now join other communities and their high schools which have quality, multi-use facilities which are lighted and available for community use. I feel we should afford our students and athletes the same, equal experiences of their fellow Northern Virginia high school students and a lighted field with quality facilities is the logical next step. I urge your support of the land-use application for TC Williams which is before you today.

Sincerely,

Kerry J. Donley

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10-13-18

