



David J. Della
Seattle City Councilmember

City of Seattle Hearing Examiner

EXHIBIT

Appellant _____
Respondent _____ ADMITTED _____
Department _____ DENIED



FILE #W-05-007/008/009/010

August 3, 2005

Kevin Donnelly
7329 20th Ave. NW
Seattle, Washington 98117

Dear Mr. Donnelly:

Thank you for writing to my office to share your concerns about the proposed redevelopment of Loyal Heights Playfield. I too, share your concerns.

While the issue of redeveloping this Park is not a matter that is before Council at this time, it has been brought to my attention that some may be under the impression that the decision to install synthetic turf at Loyal Heights Playfield was one that Council endorsed in 1999 and again in 2002 with the adoption of the JAFDP. In 2002, Council chose to purposefully **not** adopt the JAFDP for a number of reasons. Instead, Council adopted Resolution 30530, which provided general direction with regard to the development of athletic fields. The Council did not include any provisions to prescribe synthetic surfaces for Loyal Heights Playfield in this resolution.

Upon meeting with a number of constituents, receiving a great deal of correspondence and visiting Loyal Heights Playfield, I, along with members of the Council's Parks, Neighborhoods and Education Committee (Councilmember Jean Godden and Councilmember Peter Steinbrueck) sent a letter to Superintendent Bounds and the Board of Park Commissioners urging that they reconsider the proposal to install synthetic turf at Loyal Heights.

While I greatly understand and appreciate the need to maximize the use of athletic fields to accommodate an increasing number of sports enthusiasts – both younger and older – I also understand the lack of open space in Ballard, the size of Loyal Heights Playfield, and the character and nature of this field. I personally had hoped that other alternative sites could have been explored for synthetic turf – such as nearby Soundview which is significantly larger and already is more heavily used.

(Over)

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Unfortunately, the Board of Park Commissioners this past Thursday, July 28th voted (3-1) to recommend to Superintendent Bounds to adopt the proposal for upgrade – including synthetic turf. The decision now rests with the Superintendent, whom I would urge that you continue to contact to express your concerns.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact my office. I hope that you will keep in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Della', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David J. Della
Seattle City Councilmember
Chair, Parks, Neighborhoods and Education Committee