

SEMINARY HILL ASSOCIATION, INC.
2115 Marlboro Drive
Alexandria, VA 22304-1013

September 25, 2010

Ms. Suzanne Maxey, Principal
TC Williams High School
3330 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Ms. Maxey:

The Members of the Board of the Seminary Hill Association, Inc. (SHA), were very recently informed that TC Williams has made plans to allow a varsity football game to be played under the lights on Friday night, October 29th. While we knew that there is always interest in staging football games under the lights and your former Athletic Director had raised the issue at a meeting of the TC Williams Community Advisory Committee (Committee) many months ago, we were assured that our members would be included in further discussions with the school before any final decisions were made or contracts were signed. These assurances were broken.

SHA has grave concerns about this violation of the DSUP for the high school. Condition #85 that prohibits permanent lighting in Parker Gray Stadium had to be approved in order to change the zoning to build the new school on the existing site states: "No permanent stadium lighting shall be installed at the School stadium or on any other athletic fields, including the proposed new practice field." This prohibition codifies the agreement made with neighbors when the original TC Williams was built. At that time, the homes in Chinquapin Village and Seminary were razed and relocated to the area immediately surrounding the new school. The school was built on a relatively small site in an area that was an established residential neighborhood and the prohibition against lighting reflected the close proximity of homes to the high school.

SHA continues to firmly support this prohibition and warns that the use of portable lighting for one game in no way opens the door for any discussion about additional lighting in the stadium or the right to stage more night games. SHA also requests details on the plans for October 29th. For example: What level of security is planned for this game particularly in relation to patrolling the outer perimeter of Parker Gray Stadium? Where will the lights be positioned? What are the plans for fan parking?

SHA believes it is incumbent on you as the administrative leader of TC Williams to remind your constituency at every opportunity of the legal restrictions against lighting at Parker Gray Stadium and not allow false hopes about the "possibility" of permanent lighting there. This is not a matter that is subject to any negotiation or compromise.

SHA members strongly suggest that a meeting with you is necessary to discuss the way future issues will be handled. This meeting should include representatives from the Office of Planning and Zoning and the Office of Building & Fire Code Administration so they can clarify the way the Committee should be used when the school wishes to take an action that has implications to matters addressed in the Site Plan. It is our position that merely mentioning the possibility of having a night game to the Committee and then going forward with signed contracts and a definite schedule without any further communication or discussion was not in compliance with the way the Committee is expected to function. We had expected to have an opportunity to bring this matter before our neighbors and our Board to get our concerns addressed **before** the game was scheduled. Now the game has been scheduled and we know nothing about what steps the school has taken to ensure a successful night.

We are pleased to know that the Committee is now meeting on a quarterly basis. We hope that the issues surrounding the use of the sound system in the Stadium as well as the gate for the EVE will be resolved promptly. We look forward to a cordial and productive working relationship with TC Williams in the years ahead. In order for that relationship to be productive, however, it is important that the school not take unilateral action on issues that affect the surrounding community without involving the Committee in full and meaningful discussions so that concerns can be addressed.

Very truly yours,



Nancy R. Jennings
President
Seminary Hill Association, Inc.

cc: Stephen Colantuoni, Executive Associate Principal
Yvonne Folkerts, Chairman, Alexandria School Board
Morton Sherman, Superintendent, Alexandria City Public Schools
Mayor Euille and Board Members of the Alexandria City Council