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**COPY**



Reply to:

David Salwen  
 President  
 Friends of Rose Park, Inc.  
 2816 Dumbarton Street, N.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20007  
 (202) 337-1971 (H)  
 (202) 486-7298 (cell)  
[dis@alum.mit.edu](mailto:dis@alum.mit.edu)

January 16, 2008

Ms. Adrienne A. Coleman  
 Superintendent, Rock Creek Park  
 United States Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service  
 National Capital Region  
 Rock Creek Park  
 3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW  
 Washington, DC 20008-1207

**RE: The Rose Park Path, Georgetown, Washington, DC**

Dear Superintendent Coleman:

I am the President of Friends of Rose Park, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, community-based organization which works with neighbors and users of Rose Park to improve the Park's usefulness and appearance. Friends of Rose Park is the neighborhood's collective voice and advocate for the best interests of the Park.

I am writing to you in order to seek clarification on the issue of the path along the edge of Rose Park. As you are well aware, there has been a long, ongoing discussion regarding the future of the path. Our organization has been consistent in advocating the following:

1. The path should remain in its current location and at its current width
2. The path should be renovated because its current condition is a hazard.
3. There should be no bike traffic on the path because of the dangers of mixing uses on such a narrow path and because of the intense use of the path by pedestrians and children.

Your position with regard to the path is critical, as a large portion of the path is on National Park Service property. We at Friends of Rose Park were very pleased when we read in the Georgetown Current on December 13, 2006 that you were quoted as saying: "The National Park Service opposes widening the path. (The neighbors have) nothing to worry about." And you noted that repaving is sorely

needed.

In a more recent article by the Georgetown Current on January 2, 2008, however, you stated that you do not know why residents are discussing this issue; that the path has always been mixed use, and that all paths in Rock Creek Park are mixed use.

As you know, the width of the Rose Park path is between 4 to 6 feet; while a safe multi-use path must be at least 10 feet wide. These dimensions are generally accepted and are being used by the bike trail planners at DDOT for all local path planning. Further, the National Park Service does limit path use throughout Rock Creek Park. I have seen many signs that deny bike use of a trail.

We sincerely believe that the public debate about the future of Rose Park's path has gone on long enough. Can you please further the processes, and lead us to a solution by stating a coherent position on behalf of the National Park Service? It has been over 7 years since the first articles and an ANC resolution on this subject, which followed a long period of discussion (please visit our website to see the articles and community documents regarding this issue: <http://www.roseparkdc.org/hotTopics.html>). In that time the trail has become even more damaged, dangerous, and in need of repair; yet a solution is not in sight.

With your leadership, we could finally have a refurbished path that is safe and useful. Please, take a position and take action.

Sincerely,



David Salwen  
President, Friends of Rose Park

copies to:

The Honorable Jack Evans  
D.C. City Council  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Room 106  
Washington, D.C. 20004

The Honorable Tom Birch  
ANC Commissioner  
1240 29<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Ms. Denise R. Cunningham  
Citizens Association of Georgetown  
1365 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W., Suite 200  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Mr. Clark Ray  
Acting Director  
D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation  
3149 16<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20010

Mr. Emeka Moneme  
Director  
D.C. Department of Transportation  
2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20009