



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Fairfax County Park Authority Executive Director
Mount Vernon District Park Authority Commissioner

October 31, 2022

Dear Ms. Cole and Mr. Gorham,

The Mount Vernon Council (MVCCA) is sharing our concerns in the attached resolution regarding safety issues at the Collingwood Park in the MV district. We ask for your support to ensure the situation that occurred in August 2022 does not happen again.

Thank you're your support.

Regards,

Katherine Ward

Katherine Ward
Cochair
MVCCA

Attachment: Resolution regarding safety in Collingwood Park

MVCCA Safety Concerns in Collingwood Park Resolution 2022-01(ER and PS)

Whereas; Collingwood Park is a small community park not a large county recreation facility;

Whereas; Collingwood Park has only one portable toilet;

Whereas; Collingwood Park has only forty-four parking spaces (2 of which are designated handicap parking) and they need to be available for users of the tennis court, pickle ball court and tot lot as well as users of the soccer fields;

Whereas; Private homes border Collingwood Park on the south side, on the north side and the Park is on Chadwick Ave, which is posted no parking, and on the east side the Park borders National Park Service Road West Boulevard Drive, which is also posted no parking;

Whereas; Permits for alcohol and food and tournaments/game play must be applied for and a permit granted;

Whereas; Use of the field's rules are posted but often ignored by soccer players;

Whereas; Large groups of adult soccer players from DC, Maryland and Virginia have shown up over the years early on Sunday mornings with alcohol, food, and large numbers of spectators;

Whereas; The players and spectators routinely used the treed areas along the park as a bathroom;

Whereas; In mid-August, a large group showed up again for a tournament, again with alcohol, food and a large number of spectators, and a major fight occurred which force people to flee into private fenced yards and resulted in the police being deployed; and

Whereas; the neighbors whose homes along the park called 911 and officers were dispatched to break up the fight and remove the large crowd from the park.

Therefore be it resolved; The Park Authority should never permit large soccer tournaments/games , any other type of large athletic tournaments/games or large social events in Collingwood Park as it is too small with very limited services;

Therefore be it resolved: The Park Authority should routinely have their staff or volunteer monitors show up at Collingwood Park on the weekends , especially Sundays to ensure that the posted county policies/rules are being followed.

Approved by the MVCCA General Council Membership October 27, 2022