

To Preserve And Promote Our Historic Lifestyle,

Virginia Gerhart
Chairperson, Parking Committee
Federal Hill Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 27112
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

November 8, 2013

Sara Long, Principal
Federal Hill Preparatory School
1040 William Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Dear Principal Long:

Thank you for attending the October 7 meeting of the Federal Hill Neighborhood Association (FHNA) Parking Committee. At the meeting we discussed the noise problem created by bar patrons most nights of the week, but especially Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, who park illegally in the school parking lot on the corner of E. Hamburg and William Streets. Bar patrons returning to their cars, as late as 4 a.m., often hang around the lot, shouting and playing loud music, which disturbs the peace of residents whose homes front on E. Hamburg Street.

As you outlined at our Monday meeting, the school currently uses the lot for three purposes (and correct me if I'm wrong):

1. School personnel with ID tags park in the lot from 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.
2. The school uses the lot throughout the school year for events on designated evenings and Saturdays.
3. The lot is used for fundraising, usually on Sundays, during Baltimore Ravens home games.

In addition a church that holds services in the school uses the lot during designated hours on Sunday mornings.

The lot is not available for any other use during these days and hours. For the remainder of the time, signage states no parking is allowed and vehicles found in the lot are subject to being towed at the owner's expense.

At our meeting, Federal Hill residents requested that the lot be made available to cars with Area 9 decals, affixed to the far left driver-side windshield, during the hours when the school or the church doesn't need use of it. Area 9 is in great need of more nighttime off-street parking spaces.

You graciously agreed to enter into a six-month trial period with FHNA, opening up the lot to resident vehicles displaying the current year's Area 9 decals to park their cars, except during the days and hours, outlined above. You agreed to notify the towing company that it tow only vehicles not displaying Area 9 decals. Vehicles with decals that are parked in infringement of the agreed-upon days and hours will be subject to towing. Vehicles displaying Area 9 visitor passes on the

driver-side dashboard are not eligible to use the lot. You were also kind enough to agree to post signs at both lot entrances in advance of evenings and weekend days outside of school hours when you will need to close the lot to Area 9 vehicles.

FHNA has agreed to pay for new signage and its installation if the towing company doesn't cover those charges. Richard Polan, an FHNA member, will provide the language needed for the signs. You and/or Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) will approve the language.

Three areas were not clarified:

1. Lot capacity.
2. Degree of enforcement by the towing company.
3. Start date for opening the lot to Area 9.

For lot capacity, we need to discuss if signage will state a limit.

For enforcement, we need to clarify how aggressive the towing company will be in towing nonpermitted cars. Currently, bar patrons get away with parking in the lot, whereas residents don't use the lot for fear of being towed. Without enforcement, bar patrons will continue to try to use the lot. It doesn't take many bar patrons parking in the lot to create a disturbance. If Area 9 cars park in the lot along with bar goers there is potentially some risk of vandalism and accidents, which E. Hamburg St residents have observed.

As for start date, we hope the plan can be implemented to begin around the first of the year.

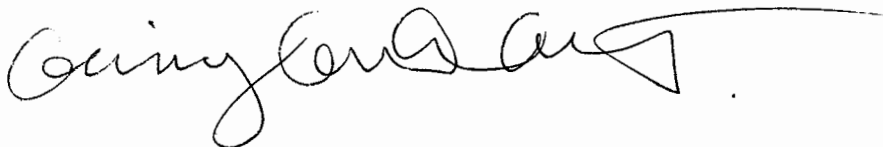
Two other issues were discussed:

1. Indemnity, and
2. Gating lot entrances.

Area 9 decal holders will be parking at their own risk. However, FHNA will look into this issue to make sure BCPS is not legally liable for any damages that might occur. You and our group decided to use signage rather than gating to deter misuse.

As representative of the Parking Committee, I thank you for your willingness to help neighborhood residents solve a parking and noise dilemma. Please contact Eric Costello, FHNA president, or me about any questions or problems you have with this arrangement. I look forward to working with you.

Respectfully,



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