Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

By Electronic Mail

November 23, 2026

Ms. Thennie Freeman
Director, D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation
1275 First Street, NE, 8th floor,
Washington, DC 20002

Mr. Delano Hunter
Director, Department of General Services
3924 Minnesota Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20019

RE: Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center repairs

Ms. Freeman, Mr. Hunter:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B, at a duly noticed public meeting, with a quorum being the "majority of the total number of commissioner positions currently filled in Commission 4B," at its November 23, 2026, meeting voted with __ Yeas, __ Nays, and __ Abstentions to send this letter expressing concerns regarding maintenance at the Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center, located at 501B Riggs Road NE, within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B and Single Member District 4B09.

The Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center is a beloved community asset, providing a space for recreation, health and fitness, and connection for neighbors of all ages. It has long been a vital resource for our community. We appreciate DPR's partnership to open the field for open community use. Over the years, however, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B has repeatedly raised concerns

regarding the operations of the Center, which has led to frustration and diminished trust in the Center's ability to serve the public effectively. Despite consistent feedback from the community and formal communications from the Commission, the problems persist. Specifically, the Commission highlights the following ongoing issues:

- **Operational and Facility Management Issues:** There have been recurring reports of operational challenges, such as the Nicholson Street NE building entrance that is noncompliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, non-functional equipment including the HVAC system and broken soccer netting at 6th and Madison St NE, needed upgrades to equipment including playground shade funded in 2024 that has yet to be installed, and cleanliness issues. These ongoing issues highlight deeper concerns regarding the maintenance of the center. The continued lack of reliable staffing and properly maintained equipment undermines the center's ability to consistently meet the needs of the community and maintain its role as a dependable recreational resource.

In light of the above concerns, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B urges the District Department of Parks and Recreation and the District Department of General Services to take immediate action to address these operational issues. To assist in ensuring the Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center can meet the community's needs, the Commission requests the following:

- **Maintenance and Facility Management**: The Commission requests that the District Department of Parks and Recreation and the District Department of General Services prioritize regular and proactive facility maintenance at the Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center. This includes addressing long-standing issues that have been affecting the Center's operation and safety for years. Historically, there have been prolonged HVAC repairs that have impacted the comfort and air quality of the facility, as well as delays and disruptions to updates in the weight room and other Center facilities. These issues, along with ongoing concerns about the general upkeep of the gym and surrounding spaces, including the need for new exercise equipment, have significantly hindered the Center's ability to serve the community effectively. The Commission urges both the District Department of Parks and Recreation and the District Department of General Services to work collaboratively to ensure that these maintenance and equipment issues are resolved promptly and consistently, improving the overall quality and safety of the Center for all users.

The Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center is an essential part of our neighborhood, and it is vital that it be managed in a way that ensures reliability, safety, and accessibility for all residents. The Commission believes that the issues outlined above need to be addressed with urgency to restore trust and ensure that the pool can once again serve the community effectively.

We greatly appreciate your prompt attention to these matters. The Commissioners of ANC 4B would appreciate a meeting and/or walk through of the recreation center facilities with you if it would be helpful to addressing these concerns.

The Commission requests a response by December 24, 2026, detailing next steps and actions to address the concerns raised. The Commission designates Commissioner Danielle Geong, ANC 4B09, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this letter with you or any DC government entity regarding this matter until the new ANC 4B09 Commissioner is sworn into their position in January 2027.

Sincerely,

Shamina Christian, Chair, ANC 4B, ANC 4B02 Commissioner

Tiffani Nichole Johnson, Vice Chair and Treasurer, ANC 4B, ANC 4B06 Commissioner

Danielle Geong, ANC 4B09 Commissioner

cc: Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George

Sebastian Weinmann, DC Council Committee on Facilities Director

Chris Dyer, DPR

John Stokes, DGS

Andrew Reese, Director, Department on Disability Services