



BARCROFT SCHOOL AND CIVIC LEAGUE

800 South Buchanan Street
Arlington, Virginia 22204

March 16, 2011

Honorable James Moran
U.S. Congress, Virginia 8th District
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4608

Subject: BRAC 2005 Impacts in Arlington – National Guard Bureau

Dear Congressman Moran:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Barcroft School and Civic League (our neighborhood association). The Barcroft neighborhood (Arlington, Virginia) is adjacent to the Federal complex consisting of the National Guard and State Department at the corner of Route 50 and George Mason Drive. We appreciate that you voted against BRAC 2005 and continue to fight for the rights and welfare of local communities in Northern Virginia who are being forced to bear the brunt of the Federal BRAC decisions and impacts.

We have noticed over the past year or so that you have been very vocal about the problems we Virginians will face at Fort Belvoir and the Mark Center. We encourage you to take a closer look at the negative impacts experienced by your constituency in the Barcroft and other residential neighborhoods surrounding the National Guard/State Department Federal complex. Our residents are already trying to manage and deal with the impacts even before the additional 1200 new federal employees arrive before September 2011. While we appreciate that local staff from the National Guard and the State Department have been working with us, there seem to be few solutions to a wide variety of transportation, traffic, parking, and public safety problems.

As many of the residents recently learned at a neighborhood meeting, this is a Federal complex that rivals the new Mark Center in capacity as the combined National Guard/State Department federal workforce will be close to 6000 employees. We were also told that the National Capital Planning Commission has limited the parking for this facility to approximately 40% of total occupancy while the Mark Center which has approximately the same sized Federal workforce at 6400 has been allowed to provide parking for over 60% of its occupancy.

As you know, both facilities are located in predominately residential neighborhoods with no mass transit options. The significant difference is that the National Guard/State Department Federal complex has plenty of available land to provide adequate parking for the Federal employees who work there.

Already our neighborhood has become the National Guard's parking lot because the Federal government failed to properly assess, plan, and accommodate for the increase in personal vehicle traffic. Approximately half of the Barcroft residential neighborhood has recently zoned itself to limit non-resident parking in our neighborhood, but it hasn't stopped the use of our residential streets for parking. Federal employees continue to move further west into the neighborhood and the additional 1200 Federal workers from the National Guard Bureau have yet to be moved from their Crystal City office building.

By late this summer 2011 the parking and transportation problems will be a complete fiasco. Furthermore, the employees from the National Guard/State Department complex are now impacting the daily operations of the Barcroft Elementary School (a school servicing a predominately minority student population) as teachers have difficulty finding parking on the street to go to work – a problem that did not exist before the growth at the National Guard/State Department Federal complex. The parking and traffic has become so dense on Wakefield Street (located in front of the Barcroft Elementary School) it raises concerns over public safety.

We request your leadership and assistance to:

- 1) Request the National Capital Planning Commission to get involved with this issue and to increase the parking allowance at the National Guard/State Department complex located at Route 50 and George Mason Drive
- 2) Encourage the National Guard and State Department senior leaders to commit both organizations to work together and assist the local community being impacted. Chief among these tasks should be efforts to identify, fund where appropriate, and expedite viable solutions to the numerous parking, transportation, and public safety issues in and around the National Guard/State Department Federal complex.

Thank you for your service to our country and your consideration of our request.

Respectfully,

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