



March 5, 2007

James B. Kraft
Baltimore City Council, First District
Room 505, City Hall
100 N. Holliday St.
Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Councilman Kraft:

As you requested, Unit South Durham Homestead Houses, Inc. ("Homestead Houses") (see state-approved charter attached) submits below a "wish list" for repairs to the park at 7 South Durham Street prior to transfer of ownership.

When the City of Baltimore constructed the park in the mid-1970s, in conjunction with the eight homestead houses on the west side of the street, many amenities were included. A working water supply was installed for irrigation of the plantings; an attractive brick walkway was provided for neighborhood pedestrians and dog-walkers; ten wooden posts were sunk to divide the two parking bays into eight head-in spaces; street lights were positioned to illuminate the street; and benches were installed. Of these, the benches were removed because they attracted overnight and long-term transients, making this one amenity the Homestead Houses prefer to do without.

The homestead tenants have kept the park clean, trimmed and replaced trees and shrubs, and planted flowers. However, the lack of any formal association or fees for investment resulted in some maintenance problems over the years. For example, the water supply was discontinued because no arrangement was made for "ownership" and payment of the account; areas of the brick walkway have subsided or "popped up" due to the sewage drainage systems that run beneath the park and empty onto Durham Street and other reasons; and the wooden posts eventually rotted and were removed. Homestead Houses is developing a plan to cover ongoing maintenance and liability expenses, but, as we have discussed with your office, would appreciate the city's bringing the park back up to a safe level of repair before transferring the property and establishing "Barbara Mikulski 'Urban Experiment At Work' Park."

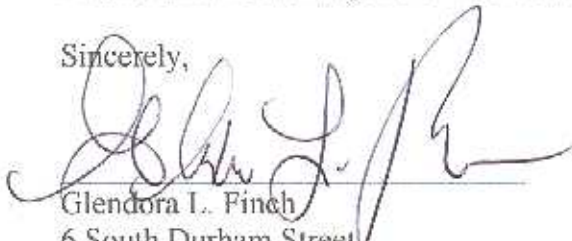


Here is a list of issues we need help with:

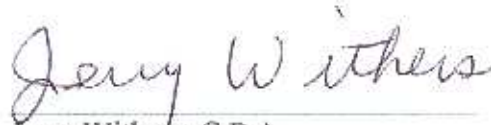
- Repair brickwork (including any infrastructure repair needed to drainage system)
- Repair water connection and establish account for Homestead Houses
- Replace 10 wooden parking posts (3 in blacktop of each bay, four end postholes in brick walkway)
- Curate trees—including appropriate care for those in brick wells with metal grate involved in bark; “flat-top” trees to preserve canopy growth
- Add lighting to the back of the park, to discourage illicit nocturnal activities and illuminate walkway for pedestrians and (especially) dog-walkers
- Supply 3 “Please pick up after your dog” signs

Thank you for your assistance. Should you need further information please contact Ken Piaskowski, resident agent for Homestead Houses, at 12 South Durham Street, 410-241-8065.

Sincerely,



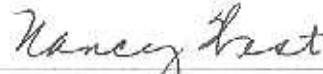
Glendora I. Finch
6 South Durham Street
(Original Homesteader)
410-767-1687 (until 3 p.m.)
410-276-5101 (evenings)



Jerry Withers, C.P.A.
20 (20-22) South Durham Street
(Owner since 2005)
24 (24-26) South Durham Street
(Owner since 2001)



Lorie A. Mayorga, J.D.
12 (12-14) South Durham Street
(Owner since 1992)
410-767-1855 (office)
410-537-5011 (home)



Nancy West, M.S.
28 South Durham Street
(Owner since 2001)
410-327-9167



Patrick T. Boyle, A.A.S.
30 South Durham Street
(Owner since 1987)

Calvin Brooks
16 (16-18) South Durham Street
(Original Homesteader)

Avon Kendrick
10 (8-10) South Durham Street