

Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights

TESTIMONY BEFORE PLANNING BOARD ON RESOLUTION 18 – 085

Chairman Anderson and commissioners, thanks for the opportunity to comment on resolution 18 – 085 to acquire the Sunninghorse River LLC property as an addition to the Willard Avenue Neighborhood Park.

My name is Harold Pfohl and I'm testifying as Chair on behalf of the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights, a 17 community, half-century old organization engaged primarily in zoning and planning issues.

My comments will be very brief. Staff has done an admirable job of stating the situation. My purpose this morning is to add emphasis to staff's comments. All of our neighborhoods regard this park and any opportunity to enhance it as vital to the well-being of all within the immediate vicinity:

- the park is located in what is arguably the highest density residential community in the county and with an increasing population of children
- it provides additional space for future amenities
- it improves visibility of the park
- it improves public access to the park

We cannot emphasize enough that we completely concur with staff and regard as exceptionally important that the quality of life in this dense urban environment is enhanced by providing

- green relief from built environment/contemplative experiences
- a sense of place
- an opportunity to connect with the community/social experiences
- active recreation

While I don't have figures to support this thought, I suspect that there is no other area in the county that has such a high ratio of human beings to park area in immediate proximity to a park.

We earnestly request that you proceed to approve resolution 18 – 085. Thank you for your time.