CITY OF RICHMOND

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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DEQ-Office of Environmental Impact Review

August 17, 2007

Mr. John E. Fisher
Environmental Impact Review Coordinator
Department of Environmental Quality
Commonwealth of Virginia
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Re: Environmental Impact Report
VCU Recreational Sports – Capital Improvements – DEQ Project # 07-106S

Dear Mr. Fisher:

This letter is a follow up to our letter to your agency dated June 29, 2007. In that letter we listed several concerns regarding the planning and design of the Recreational Sports complex on West Cary Street serving Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). Along with our concerns were several recommendations, one of which was that VCU work with the City and other stakeholders in making improvements to the project.

As a result, VCU met recently with the City to discuss proposed revisions to the originally proposed design. We believe that these revisions are excellent improvements and reflect a good faith effort on the part of VCU to responsibly address the concerns of their neighbors and partners in this project. While all of the revisions are not finalized, we are confident that VCU will continue to work with the City and other interested stakeholders to develop a final product that is significantly improved and that will serve Richmond and the University well.

In closing, I would like to add that this is a perfect example of why the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) process is so important. And how, when taken seriously and carried out properly, can have a positive impact and meet the high standards that the Commonwealth seeks.

Sincerely,

Rachel Flynn, AIA
Director

cc: Brian Ohlinger, Vice President, Facilities Management, Virginia Commonwealth University