

ANC 6B

Capitol Hill / Southeast

April 11, 2025

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Ward 6 Councilman, Charles Allen,

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Re: Requesting a Restart for Rumsey Aquatic Center Rebuilding

This letter requests a restart in planning for the Rumsey Aquatic Center and explains why a restart is necessary.

Most are familiar with the Sesame Street jingle: “One of these things is not like the others.” It is not hard to determine which proposal for the Rumsey Aquatic Center is different than the community- based proposals that preceded it. The one that is different is the one just introduced -- without community consultation -- on March 12. Rather than reflecting the RFP that was the basis for the generous design/build award, the current proposal goes its own direction and seeks to shoehorn a few small auxiliary rooms into the current, single story, pool space.

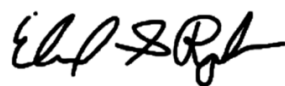
The difference between the RFP and the proposed project is as great as the difference between Big Bird and Oscar the Grouch: The RFP declares: “In addition to new and upgraded aquatic features, the project will aim to deliver community-based program spaces.” Implausibly, the current proposal does not propose to provide even the core items stipulated in the RFP:

- senior center with tech lounge and other amenities;
- large multipurpose/recreation room;
- small to medium multipurpose/recreation rooms (note the plural)

At the March community meeting residents were presented with three “options”, none of which included the second floor which has been anticipated by the community, and which will be required to meet the specifications of the RFP. Not until the Q and A was the issue of a second floor addressed and then only because several residents specifically asked about its surprising omission from the plan.

Capitol Hill residents hold a variety of expectations for pool use. However, there is universal understanding that the rebuild of Ramsey is a once in a lifetime opportunity to add needed space resources for our built-up neighborhood that are unlikely to arise elsewhere.

Sincerely,



Edward Ryder, Chair of ANC 6B

CC: Tommie Jones, Director of Community Outreach, DPR -tommie.jones@dc.gov