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**Fwd: Treatment of Montgomery Blair Students by Parks**

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**Martin, Kirsten** <martink@email.gwu.edu>  
To: Kirsten Martin <patandkirsten@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 28, 2017 at 12:03 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Martin, Kirsten** <martink@email.gwu.edu>  
Date: Thursday, April 27, 2017  
Subject: Treatment of Montgomery Blair Students by Parks  
To: "Tyler, Bill" <Bill.Tyler@montgomeryparks.org>  
Cc: "Nissel, John" <John.Nissel@montgomeryparks.org>, "Riley, Mike" <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>, "Anderson, Casey" <Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org>, MCP-Chair <MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org>

Bill,

Thank you for your email. This is a bit awkward, but the subject our email is your policies and communications with the school about the student-athletes and the fields. So meeting with you to let you know how Blair students have been treated would be just telling you what you know. Your policies are what we are trying to resolve and I'm sure you are in talks directly with MCPS and nothing is resolved (it's only getting worse).

Our request was to attend a public meeting to make sure the disrespect of our students is well known and to hold Parks accountable. I've re-copied the MCP-Chair to get on a meeting agenda. Alternatives include an email campaign, social media campaign with pictures of the students not able to play due to locked/unmaintained fields, press, etc. We have the pictures and I just saw the email to parents giving out Parks' contact information.

If you wish to resolve this amicably with MCPS as you mention, that would save us contacting the paper, attending the public meeting, and starting to publish the pictures. I would fully support respecting the students and treating the school as an important stakeholder in these fields rather than a not-very-important permit holder who can be de-prioritized for permit holders up-county or permit holders from outside the county. One item we will also examine is if all key partners for Parks are treated in the same manner. For example, are games cancelled for Georgetown or are they locked out of the field? As far as I can tell, they have practiced more than 8 times this year so that is more than Blair. Just yesterday, our students were again locked out and the game was cancelled by parks, yet somehow Georgetown U was able to play a game ( <http://www.guhoyas.com/sports/m-basebl/sched/gu-m-basebl-sched.html>). I note that Parks was able to have Georgetown play on Shirley Povich field for 10 games (including yesterday) yet Blair is continually told their field would not be ready. This doesn't include practice. We will share that information in the public meeting - again, you already know this information since you make the decision to prep the field for Georgetown rather than Blair fields and then lock out Blair students.

In response to John's email that you forwarded, and contrary to what is included, we never asked for a meeting with you, Mike, or Casey since Park's policies and practices are the problem. I do not know what resistance there would be as is mentioned in the email. Perhaps you meant there would be resistance within Parks to meet with us. That is something you would need to deal with internally.

Kirsten

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Kirsten Martin, Ph.D.

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On Wednesday, April 26, 2017, Tyler, Bill <Bill.Tyler@montgomeryparks.org> wrote:

Good afternoon,

We are in receipt of your request to meet with Parks to discuss the use of the softball fields at Blair High School. Deputy Director and I would be happy to meet with you to discuss these concerns and work toward an amicable solution for all. We would like to meet next week Thursday anytime in the morning or after 3:30 in the afternoon. We will provide a meeting space here at our Headquarters located at 9500 Brunette Ave, Silver Spring, MD. We look forward to meeting with you.

Bill Tyler

Chief, Montgomery Parks

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**From:** Nissel, John  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:57 AM  
**To:** MCP-Chair <mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org>; Anderson, Casey <Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org>; Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; Pedoeem, Mitra <Mitra.Pedoeem@montgomeryparks.org>  
**Cc:** Tyler, Bill <Bill.Tyler@montgomeryparks.org>  
**Subject:** RE: Treatment of Montgomery Blair Students by Parks

Casey/ Mike,

Bill Tyler and I will reach out to Ms. Martin and arrange a meeting but we might get some resistance since they are requesting both you and Mike to be present as well. Let me know if this is how you would like to proceed. I want to be able to respond to her today if possible and get together next week.

John

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**From:** MCP-Chair  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 12:53 PM  
**To:** Anderson, Casey <Casey.Anderson@mncppc-mc.org>; Riley, Mike <Mike.Riley@montgomeryparks.org>; Nissel, John <John.Nissel@montgomeryparks.org>; Pedoeem, Mitra <Mitra.Pedoeem@montgomeryparks.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Treatment of Montgomery Blair Students by Parks

FYI. Parks, this has also been sent to you via CRM.

Joyce

**From:** Martin, Kirsten [mailto:martink@email.gwu.edu]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 16, 2017 8:21 PM  
**To:** MCP-Chair <mcp-chair@mncppc-mc.org>  
**Subject:** Treatment of Montgomery Blair Students by Parks

April 16, 2017

Dear Parks and Planning Board,

I am writing you concerning the treatment of the students of Montgomery Blair High School by Montgomery Parks in regards to the softball field at Blair Fields. I am the president of the Montgomery Blair Athletics Association; we support Montgomery Blair student-athletes in particular and Montgomery Blair HS athletics in general. For example, we recently purchased the softball scoreboard and stadium sound system for Blair Fields with matching funds in a bond bill.

The student athletes of the softball team are consistently not able to play on your fields, are locked out of the fields, and their field is de-prioritized in maintenance and preparation by Parks. This results in our softball team losing out on practice time and games. This issue has only gotten worse.

This is a concern on a number of levels – not least of which is that Parks prioritizes outside private entities in getting the fields ready for play over the students at Blair. In addition, while systemic prioritization of baseball over softball may be the norm in Parks based on the demand for baseball fields, it is not acceptable for a school system. Parks de-prioritizing the softball field impacts the ability of female athletes to have access to a needed resource. In other words, we are starting to have softball student-athletes have a markedly worse experience than the baseball players only because Parks does not prioritize the softball field.

We would like to know how to get this issue on the agenda so that we might speak to the problem. I will be there and provide specific dates, pictures of our fields being deemed 'unsafe' by officials because Parks neglected to pick them up, the work being done on the fields for outside permitted holders while our softball field is ignored, our girls being locked out of their own field, etc. Our parents and students have done an excellent job documenting the issue with pictures! The issues appear to center on (1) getting access and (2) care and maintenance.

Please let me know the best meeting to attend. I do believe we can get this resolved and continue to be a partner in the development and maintenance of Blair Fields.

As a reminder, Montgomery Blair High School is the largest public school in MD serving a diverse student body. Parks is able to administer Blair Fields because the fields were donated to Parks by MCPS in the hopes of making the public land more accessible to the public in addition to Blair students. Once Parks is reminded of these facts and that we are talking about 16-17 year old female students, I am certain that the de-prioritization of Montgomery

Blair students by Park's maintenance staff will cease. A presentation of these facts at one of your meetings appears to be the next step to resolve this issue since the normal course within Parks has not changed anything.

Kirsten Martin

President, Montgomery Blair Athletic Association.

[www.blairboosters.org](http://www.blairboosters.org)

cell: [301-300-0861](tel:301-300-0861)

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