

Loss of Parking for Community and ACC

Dear Editor:

Arlington Community Church (ACC) has learned that the parking lot across from ACC is considered by Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) to be the #1 remaining site option for use as a Police Building. This parking lot is co-owned by ACC and KPPCSD. ACC owns the north one-half and KPPCSD owns the south one-half of the parking lot. Although ACC Council has not been officially approached since a meeting in May with the Interim GM of the KPPCSD, ACC Council wants to make it clear that the ACC owned north one-half of the parking lot is not for sale, lease, or a swap arrangement.

The entire parking lot is used by library patrons, attendees of Community Center events, and staff and parents of the 3 schools housed at ACC. When events are held simultaneously at ACC and the other venues, which happened recently, all available parking lot spaces and those on adjacent streets are filled.

ACC regularly rents spaces for a variety of events—wedding receptions, dances, concerts, and exercise programs. ACC has even rented space to KPPCSD administrative staff and Kensington Community Council programs. Parking is a key feature for those selecting ACC for their events. ACC revenue will be significantly reduced without access to convenient parking.

Our new Pastor wishes to continue the tradition of ACC being a welcoming host for community events. ACC has hosted several events since her arrival in January and have more scheduled on a regular basis.

The entire parking lot is a community resource, not a space that exclusively benefits ACC. The damage that a sale, lease, or swap arrangement would cause ACC and the community cannot be compensated by a financial arrangement.

ACC is supportive of the Police Dept. but will vigorously oppose the use of the ACC owned north one-half of this parking lot for a Police Department Building and urges the KPPCSD Board to reconsider another option.

Faith Abel, Arlington Community Church President