

CURTIS BAY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21226

4015 Pennington Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21226
January 30, 1980

Chief Executive
W. D. Schaefer
Baltimore City Hall
Baltimore, Md. 21202

Honorable Sir:

The miniature display of our beloved city in the future, as shown in the Science Building, shows some artistic talent, but is sadly lacking in reality. How can you possibly leave out Brooklyn, Curtis Bay and surrounding areas and call it a true depiction?

As a longtime resident of Curtis Bay, and the Improvement Association's first and present chief officer, I would like to present some of my views on our present, and past, much maligned area. As a prelude, may I say I gained valuable experience and knowledge of peoples' problems as a non-paid member of Commission on Aging, South Baltimore Police Community Relations Council and others.

Brooklyn--in the past 20 years has received greatly improved and enlarged recreation areas, parks, baseball and tennis facilities, schools and streets.

Curtis Bay--a converted pumping station as a recreation center, a playground much used but totally inadequate. Promised improvements have not materialized. Budget inclusion for enlargement was dated 1981, construction year. Has now been put off to 1983. This method of religation into non-realization of new facilities has been used since 1976. Industries continue to violate health rules.

The so-called Landfill, is now a dump with 70% garbage and trash, constantly violating health department rules. Trucks carrying material to the dump litter our streets. Plants in the area trucking suspected toxic materials also littering our streets. Automobile junk yards creating unsightly areas. Gasoline, ammonia chloride, and others stored here. PCB nearby, at Ordnance Depot with more to come.

There are 130 homes here whose sewage is discharged into storm drains and thus into the harbor. Remedial action has long been promised - ten years. This is our case. Not a pretty picture. But one which can be altered with your help. Help us to be part of the "Charm City" picture with which outsiders are being beguiled.

Copies of this letter will be given to the media, both newspapers and Television, if satisfactory answers are not received soon.

Very truly yours,

CURTIS BAY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

Benjamin F. Poe, President

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A-2 Community Improvement Association

CURTIS BAY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21226

4015 Pennington Ave.
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January 30, 1980

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Mayor W. D. Schaefer
Baltimore City Hall
Baltimore, Md. 21202

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CURTIS BAY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

Benjamin F. Poe, President

BFP:as

CC: Mr. Niven, Mayor's Office
Councilmen - Della, Myers, Murphy
Delegates - Avara, Weisengoff, O'Malley
Senator - Harry J. McGuire
Representative - Barbara Mikulski
Senators - Charles M. Mathias, Paul Sarbanes

Curtis Bay Improvement Ass'n

CURTIS BAY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21226

4015 Pennington Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21226
March 20, 1981

Mayor W. D. Schaefer
Baltimore City
Baltimore City Hall
Baltimore, Md. 21202

Honorable Sir:

The Pennington Avenue Landfill, which made us happy when last heard from you telling of the proposed park, has turned into a serious health hazard and a source of consuming fire.

May I present these facts - we were told 80% of the landfill dumping would consist of rehab project debris, 20% garbage due to pyrolysis failure. The reverse is true. We were told dumping would cease at 3:30 PM, so that time to cover the landfill matter would be had. The reverse is true. Two acres of uncovered garbage were seen by our Landfill Committee Chairperson, Mr. Robert Smith. He has a permit to visit the landfill unannounced issued by the city, so that he can report irregularities. The uncovered matter is a direct reversal of your instructions.

On your visit to the landfill site, you told me that equipment needed be supplied to do the job properly. Todate, two pieces of equipment are working and one is in need of repair. Five other pieces are in the repair shop, this also is a direct reversal of your instructions.

March 14, 1981, a very serious fire was started by an hot exhaust pipe of one of the trucks which came in contact with paper and other combustible matter into which the truck found itself. Chief of Fire Dept. Vehicle #5 was on the scene as were Engines #12, #2, #37, #17, #55, Fire Dept. Trucks #6 and #19 were also extinguishing the run-away fire. Had the wind been in the direction of the homes, evacuation would have been most necessary.

Sunday, March 15, 1981, the fire began again. The fire department came, but equipment to uncover the burning surface was not available to enable the fire department to extinguish the fire beneath the surface. I called Councilman Myers for help, and it was 8:00 PM when Councilman Myers informed me that the needed equipment was found and fire out.

"Several Closing Dates" have been given for this facility. One letter stated 18 months would see the landfill closed, that would have been February, 1981.

It now seems heavy duty equipment should be on site even after the landfill is closed if fires spread so easily. The condition is serious enough to install an extinguishing method on "stand-by" with the explosive chemical companies and gasoline storage not too far away we are in peril. We ask that someone take a serious interest in this dangerous situation.

May we have your views, and assurances in this matter where residents have long endured the indignities of odors, dust, flying paper and now fire?

Very truly yours,

CURTIS BAY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

Benjamin F. Poe, President

CC: Councilmen, Delegates, Sen. McQuirk, Mr. Kutcha, Mr. Moore, Sen. Sarbanes, Sen. Mathias
Mr. Trainor, Dr. Buck, Dr. DeHoff, Betty Beggs, Balto. Fire Dept., Mr. G. D. Ferreri

CITY OF BALTIMORE

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

FRANCIS W. KUCHTA, Director
600 Municipal Building, Baltimore, Maryland 21202

August 5, 1981

Mr. Benjamin F. Poe, President
Curtis Bay Improvement Association ✓
4015 Pennington Avenue
Baltimore, Md. 21226

Dear Mr. Poe:

This is in response to your letter of August 4, 1981, concerning newspaper articles on possible future landfills.

First, I am sure you appreciate the fact that locating a needed landfill site within Baltimore City is an extremely difficult task. There are absolutely no sites available without problems of one kind or another.

We fully recognize the difficulties of the Pennington Avenue Landfill and the community impact. You and your Community earned our respect in your acceptance and understanding of our problems during the operation of Pennington.

The Mayor's policy is to lengthen the life of our current landfill at Woodberry as much as possible. In addition, we have just completed a major overhaul of the Pulaski Incinerator. The City is a member of the Northeast Md. Waste Disposal Authority and is participating through the Authority in the construction of a new incinerator on Russell Street that will burn 2000 TPD. Regardless of all our actions and regardless of the difficulty in locating an adequate site - another landfill will be needed when Woodberry is full.

Selection of a site requires consideration of many, many factors. Please understand that much more work goes into a decision than was related in the newspaper article. A good part of this effort will be working with all the communities involved to mutually resolve concerns wherever possible. We are allowing ourselves about two years to develop and evaluate information on the four sites. Only after everyone has been heard and all the facts are available will a decision be made. Truck traffic in your neighborhood and the previous burden of the Pennington Avenue Landfill will certainly be major factors in our future considerations.

Once again I want to personally thank you for all your assistance and understanding while Pennington was operating. Your active interest in your community and Baltimore is to be commended.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Trainor
Deputy Director

RHT:la



In reply refer to: MO-19

March 31, 1981

Mr. Benjamin F. Poe, President
Oulton Bay Improvement Association
4015 Pennington Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21226

Dear Mr. Poe:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your concern about certain aspects of the operation of the Pennington Avenue Landfill. I was greatly distressed to learn of some of the problems you outlined. Your letter prompted me to call in top officials of the Department of Public Works so that I could express my displeasure to them directly. We have a commitment to you and your community which I expect to be honored up until the day the landfill closes.

I have directed that the Pennington Avenue Landfill be closed entirely by May 1, 1981. In fact, the Department of Public Works will be posting a sign to that effect very shortly at the landfill entrance. I have further directed that the landfill operation be monitored closely by top level DPW personnel.

Like you, I look forward to the day when the former landfill is dedicated as a handsome, passive park named in your honor.

Sincerely,

Don
Mayor

cc: Honorable R. Charles Avara
Dr. Charles Buck
Dr. John DeHoff
Mr. Francis Kuchta
Mr. Thomas Marudas
Honorable Charles McC. Mathias
Honorable Harry J. McGuirk
Honorable Paul Sarbanes
Mr. Richard Trainor

*Ben -
You have done so
much for the community.
I hope the people in the
area appreciate my old
friends efforts on their
behalf.*



AMERICA'S BEST
BALTIMORE

Curtis Bay Improvement Ass'n.

MAY 13 1981

CURTIS BAY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21226

4015 Pennington Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21226
May 4, 1981

Mayor W. D. Schaefer
Baltimore City Hall
Baltimore, Md. 21202

Dear Mayor Schaefer:

Thank you for your support in having the landfill closed on May 1, 1981, as you had promised.

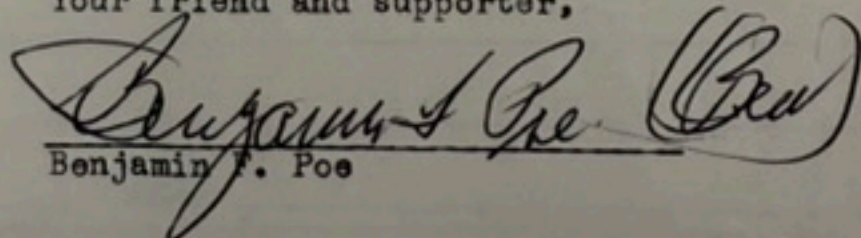
Monitoring and clean-up, before the park board accepts the property is now requested to be done as soon as possible.

The discontinuation of pick-up of bulk trash is cause for great concern. I hope it will not be eliminated. You have brought Charm City a long way, and the removal of bulk trash and placing in the proper place, has contributed greatly to the appearance of our city.

Without bulk trash pick-up we would return to where we were, old refrigerators, sofas, chairs, etc., placed anywhere and everywhere. Child suffocation, elimination of rodents in many neighborhoods, are but two reasons for continuing this phase of clean up.

Christ could not satisfy everyone, and you have shown yourself to be a courageous God-fearing Mayor. You've won many "battles" on behalf of our city. Keep up the good work.

Your friend and supporter,


Benjamin F. Poe

BFP:as

Mr. Mayor

Mr. Benjamin F. Poe
February 26, 1980
Page 2

4015 Pennington Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21226

Quality Chemical. In addition, as I believe you are already aware, representatives of the Southern Police District have visited both Quality Chemical and American Recovery within the last week to ask for their cooperation. The Southern District is on notice from me to be more vigilant with regard to truck overloading in Curtis Bay. It is important, however, for you to realize that police enforcement cannot possibly be complete enough to solve the problem. A complement to our effort might be to create a community-industry council where issues like overloading could be addressed in a constructive atmosphere. The City would be pleased to participate in any such venture.

I know that the expansion of the Curtis Bay Recreation Center has your keen interest. On this and all of the other issues discussed in this letter, my aim is to provide you with an honest response. In that vein, I must say that I cannot recall committing to the expansion of the recreation center since I have been in office. The facility has been modernized relatively recently. The fact is that our available funding for recreation center construction has thinned substantially. Commitments for those funds, as you might suspect, are relatively firm. Many are tied to joint school-recreation center projects. I am advised that the expansion of your facility is currently being programmed by our Department of Planning for 1986. By copy of this letter, I am directing Mr. Larry Reich, Director of the Department of Planning, to explore the possibility of moving this project up to 1984. Also, I am directing Mr. Douglas Tawney, Director of Recreation and Parks, to ensure that your recreation center is kept in the best possible condition.

Your frustration over the slowness in proceeding with the sanitary sewer project scheduled for what I understand are referred to as "Carshop Homes" is something we both share. The red tape for this type of project, at all levels of government, is intolerable. With some considerable effort, I am informed that we may be in a position to start this project this fall. In a memo which I have sent to Mr. Francis W. Kuchta, Director of Public Works, he has been instructed to take every appropriate step to move this project toward implementation this year if at all possible.

Two problems which you have raised lie somewhat outside the City's immediate control. The first relates to the difficulty residents of Curtis Bay have with taxi service. As you are aware, the Public Service Commission, a state body, holds jurisdiction over the taxi industry in Baltimore. In your conversation with a member of my staff, you indicated that you would contact Senator McGuirk about possible relief. Naturally, to the extent we are able, we will lend our support to his efforts. The other issue relates to the condition of Birch Street between Curtis and Andard. This "street"

Mr. Benjamin F. Poe
February 26, 1980
Page 3

is not actually public right of way. As you know, title to this property is held by Mr. Frank Gambel. Use of public funds to improve a privately owned "street" of this kind is difficult. We will continue to pursue a solution but I do not want to mislead you about the complexity of finding one.

The Pennington Avenue landfill has your constant attention I am sure. Our Sanitation people have been directed by me personally to be extra vigilant in being good neighbors. If we are not acting responsibly, I want you to let me know.

Finally, let me touch upon the Curtis Steel situation. By now, I believe that we should have improved the situation on Popland Avenue near Pennington by posting a sign prohibiting parking on the northeast corner. I have also directed Mr. William T. Davis, Acting Commissioner of Transit and Traffic, to study possible alternative routes for trucks departing Curtis Steel and heading southward on Pennington Avenue. There may possibly be a more suitable street than Popland for moving between Curtis and Pennington.

I hope you find this rather lengthy response addresses your concerns fairly and satisfactorily. Curtis Bay is strong and I will work with you to ensure that it remains that way.

Sincerely,

Mayor

cc: Honorable Charles Avara
Mr. Bernard L. Berkowitz
Major Joseph Bolesta
Mr. William T. Davis
Honorable George Della
Mr. Francis Kuchta
Mr. Thomas Marudas
Honorable Charles McC. Mathias
Honorable Harry McGuirk
Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Honorable Joseph Murphy
Honorable William Myers
Honorable Joseph O'Malley
Mr. Larry Reich
Honorable Paul Sarbanes
Mr. Douglas Tawney
Honorable Paul Weisengoff

Wm Mayor

4015 Pennington Ave.
Baltimore, Md. 21226

Curtis Bay Improvement A-2

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER, Mayor
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR • CITY OF BALTIMORE
250 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, (301) 396-3100



*2/28 RSH In reply refer to: M0-19
only Berkman F-1
copy D. Hersh*

February 26, 1980

Mr. Benjamin F. Poe, President
Curtis Bay Improvement Association
4015 Pennington Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21226

Dear Mr. Poe:

I am writing in response to a series of concerns which you raised recently in a letter to me and a subsequent visit to your home by a member of my staff. When Ben Poe and the people of Curtis Bay speak out, I assure you that I take notice. Your commitment to Curtis Bay and your efforts at preserving its desirability as a residential community have my admiration and respect.

I know that one concern you feel is that Curtis Bay and, perhaps, Brooklyn may not be readily identifiable to the rest of the Baltimore community. You are not alone. There are many neighborhoods around this City which take pride in their homes and what they are accomplishing. One simple, but very effective means of making a community more "visible" is to erect an attractive community sign in a strategically located spot. Not long ago, the Belair-Edison Improvement Association, in northeast Baltimore, did this very thing. They made a community project of raising funds for a handsome sign. City forces actually installed the sign. This type of project is something I would urge the Curtis Bay Improvement Association to consider seriously. Mr. Tom Marudas, a member of my staff, (396-4875) will be pleased to assist you with such a project.

Curtis Bay does a very effective job at co-existing with its industrial neighbors. One of the more difficult problems which I know you face is the overloading of trucks which carry dirt and other industrial byproducts. There are two specific cases which I know have been particularly difficult. I am referring to the sale of iron sulfate by Glidden to Quality Chemical and trucks departing American Recovery. Within the last week, we have taken several steps to help. My staff has been in contact with Glidden representatives to express our concern about this problem and to seek their cooperation in correcting it. They have responded well. Glidden employees have been directed not to overload Quality Chemical vehicles. Top management at Glidden has been in contact with

EW



America's Best
BALTIMORE
America's City 75-77