



Community High School District 99

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Board of Education

June 8, 2005

Mayor William Murphy
Village of Woodridge
Five Plaza Drive
Woodridge, IL 60517

Dear Mr. Murphy:

The future of the District 99 site in Woodridge has become a major community issue. The Board of Education recognizes there are residents with very strong opinions about what should happen to the property. We would also acknowledge that those opinions may differ from those held by individual board members. As elected officials the board members have a responsibility to listen to the opinions of district residents, and we respect their right to communicate with the Board of Education.

However, residents have a responsibility to use appropriate channels (letters, emails, public comments at Board meetings) to share their opinions. Within the last week there was a personal appearance at a board member's home, and irrational and threatening phone calls have been received as well. These actions are beyond the bounds of decency. Only when individual board members come together as a public body do those individuals have any authority. Otherwise, they are private citizens who are entitled like every other community member to have the privacy of their home respected, and the security of their family to be free from fear of unwanted intrusions. Individuals who chose to protest should be mindful of legal trespass issues.

Moreover, organizing a march for this Friday afternoon at the same time and location as the South High School Commencement Ceremony is also a very disrespectful act to our students, many of whom live in Woodridge. The Commencement Ceremony is to honor the graduating seniors and their accomplishments throughout their high school careers. We are very proud of our students, as I am sure you are. Staging politically driven demonstrations in conjunction with Commencement is reprehensible and detracts from the achievements of our students. Rather than giving our students a rousing sendoff, by your actions you are telling our students that they do not matter. How would you feel if your student's graduation was marred by a political demonstration?

This letter has been initiated because of escalating events within the last week that strongly suggest communication activities have gone beyond the proper channels and bounds of decency. As a community leader and former educator, we hope you would remind those who are

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Downers Grove, IL 60515
(630) 795-8400

South High School
1436 Norfolk
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following your leadership that articulating different points of view is an important part of the democratic process. But an equally important part of good citizenship in communicating differences of opinion is using decent language and tone within appropriate channels. Messages are much more effectively heard when the recipient does not feel threatened.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia Kennedy Beckman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Julia Kennedy Beckman
President