

RE: Removal, Retrofitting and Relocation of Rock Wall at Wyatt Recreation Center

Emmanuel Adediran <emmanuel.adediran@collegetparkga.com>

Thu 4/11/2024 10:24 AM

To: Bianca Motley Broom <bmotleybroom@collegetparkga.com>; Kai A. <kailightner@live.com>; Mayor and Council <MayorandCouncil@collegetparkga.com>; Michelle Johnson <mjohnson@collegetparkga.com>

Cc: Connie Lightner <clightner99@gmail.com>; Lance Terry <lterry@collegetparkga.com>; Department Heads <DepartmentHeads@collegetparkga.com>

Good morning, to all,

Please see my response in blue.



Dr. Emmanuel Adediran FMP,MS, DMIN
Interim City Manager
City of College Park · Office of City Manager
3667 Main Street, College Park, Georgia 30337
404.767.1537 Emmanuel.adediran@collegetparkga.com
www.collegetparkga.com
Connect With College Park

THE "HEALTH" OF OUR COMMUNITY, ENSURES THE LONGEVITY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

From: Bianca Motley Broom <bmotleybroom@collegetparkga.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:12 PM

To: Kai A. <kailightner@live.com>; Mayor and Council <MayorandCouncil@collegetparkga.com>; Emmanuel Adediran <emmanuel.adediran@collegetparkga.com>; Michelle Johnson <mjohnson@collegetparkga.com>

Cc: Connie Lightner <clightner99@gmail.com>; Lance Terry <lterry@collegetparkga.com>; Department Heads <DepartmentHeads@collegetparkga.com>

Subject: Re: Removal, Retrofitting and Relocation of Rock Wall at Wyatt Recreation Center

Kai,

Thank you so much for reaching out. I appreciate your commitment to our city.

Dr. Adediran, please answer Kai's questions at your earliest convenience, namely:

- 1. Is there a specific reason why you are exploring options for having the wall removed? It will be discussed in the very near future by the governing body.
2. Has there been safety concerns or any other issues that we can help you guys address? None has been brought to my attention.
3. Have the kids lost interest in participating in the sport? It has not been discussed with me.

Thanks,
Bianca



Bianca Motley Broom
Mayor
City of College Park
3667 Main Street, College Park, Georgia 30337
404.669.3755 • bmotleybroom@collegetparkga.com
www.collegetparkga.com

From: Kai A. <kailightner@live.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:21 AM

To: Mayor and Council <MayorandCouncil@collegetparkga.com>; Emmanuel Adediran <emmanuel.adediran@collegetparkga.com>; Michelle Johnson <mjohnson@collegetparkga.com>

Cc: Connie Lightner <clightner99@gmail.com>; Lance Terry <lterry@collegetparkga.com>

Subject: Re: Removal, Retrofitting and Relocation of Rock Wall at Wyatt Recreation Center

Dear Dr. Adediran

My name is Kai Lightner. I am a 24-year-old professional rock climber and founder of the nonprofit organization, Climbing for Change. As a kid, I would travel between and live either in metro Atlanta/College Park or Fayetteville, NC.

In 2020, I worked with city officials in College Park and ultimately gained approval of the City Council to help build a climbing wall in the Tracy Wyatt Center in College Park. Late 2021, the wall was open to the public. This project required me to raise \$100,000 in donations to build the wall, and I have spent approximately \$10,000 of additional donor funds since the wall opened to ensure the success of this initiative. This wall is one of our most active walls in our network and approximately 15,000 kids have had the opportunity to explore this sport through the wall at the Wyatt Center.

I was recently notified that the city is exploring options for removing the climbing wall. I was a little confused about the inquiry because I have worked closely with the center to ensure the success of the wall and thought that the kids were actively engaged in climbing activities at the center. Is there a specific reason why you are exploring options for having the wall removed? Has there been safety concerns or any other issues that we can help you guys address? Have the kids lost interest in participating in the sport?

Rock climbing can be an expensive sport and

I am truly invested in helping to increase the accessibility of this sport to low income and minority kids. I was fortunate to have a lot of people that waived costs for me as a kid, allowing me to grow in the sport. Their gifts ultimately led to me having the opportunity to travel all around the world and earn sponsorships from companies like Adidas and Clif Bar. I invest in initiatives like building the wall in the Wyatt Center to give others similar opportunities that were given to me.

If there is anything that I can do to help resolve any issues that exist, please let me know. Young people, like me, need opportunities to explore activities outside of the norm. That first step to explore new adventures can open incredible doors for future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Kai Lightner

www.kai-lightner.com

www.climbing4change.org

From: Michelle Johnson <mjohnson@collegeparkga.com>

Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 12:22:30 PM

To: Kai A. <kailightner@live.com>

Cc: Connie Lightner <clightner99@gmail.com>; Kevin Jorgeson <kevin.jorgeson@gmail.com>; Lance Terry <lterry@collegeparkga.com>; Emmanuel Adediran <emmanuel.adediran@collegeparkga.com>

Subject: RE: Removal, Retrofitting and Relocation of Rock Wall at Wyatt Recreation Center

Kai,

I would defer to the Interim City Manager, Emmanuel Adediran, regarding the reasoning and background information on the request for the removing the Rock Wall at Wyatt Center. I have included Dr. Emmanuel Adediran in on the email.

From: Kai A. <kailightner@live.com>

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 7:24 PM

To: Michelle Johnson <mjohnson@collegeparkga.com>

Cc: Connie Lightner <clightner99@gmail.com>; Kevin Jorgeson <kevin.jorgeson@gmail.com>; Lance Terry <lterry@collegeparkga.com>

Subject: Re: Removal, Retrofitting and Relocation of Rock Wall at Wyatt Recreation Center

Hi Michelle,

I am a little confused by your email. I've worked closely with you guys over the past few years to build programming and as a result, the wall at College Park has been one of the most active in our network. Is there a specific reason why you are exploring options for having the wall removed? Has there been safety concerns or any other issues that we can help you guys' address? Have the kids lost interest in participating in the sport?

As you know, our donors have invested well over \$100,000 to help provide the kids with an opportunity to participate in a sport that can be expensive for most to explore. I have talked about the invaluable opportunities that the sport has given me, and I am incredibly invested in increasing access to our sport for minority and underprivileged kids. If there is anything I can do to help maintain your program, I would like the opportunity to help.

- Kai

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Michelle Johnson <mjohnson@collegeparkga.com>

Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 1:15:57 PM


To: derek.slone@eldowalls.com <derek.slone@eldowalls.com>
Cc: skylar.pais@eldowalls.com <skylar.pais@eldowalls.com>; Kai Lightner <kai@climbing4change.org>; Connie Lightner <clightner99@gmail.com>; Kevin Jorgeson <kevin.jorgeson@gmail.com>; Lance Terry <lterry@collegeparkga.com>
Subject: Removal, Retrofitting and Relocation of Rock Wall at Wyatt Recreation Center

Dereck,

Eldorado Walls was the designer and installer of the Rock Wall at Wyatt Recreation Center in the City of College Park in 2020. We are looking for guidance on obtaining a cost quote to remove the Rock Wall. The Rock Wall was a donation project through a collaboration by Kai Lightner with Climbing for Change and Kevin Jorgeson with 1Climb. We would like to gain an understanding if the wall is removed is it possible to have the wall retrofitted and relocated to another location or facility and an estimated cost. If the retrofit and relocation is not a possibility for the City we would want to look to the donor partners to recommend providing an avenue to donate to another eligible facility outside of the City.

Thank you,



Michelle Johnson
Director
City of College Park · Office of Recreation & Cultural Arts
3636 College Street, College Park, GA 30337
404.669.3767 · mjohnson@collegeparkga.com
www.collegeparkrea.com
[Connect With College Park](#)

THE "HEALTH" OF OUR COMMUNITY ENSURES THE LONGEVITY OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Proprietary Statement

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the City of College Park, GA by emailing it@collegeparkga.com and place Proprietary Statement Response in the subject line. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

Proprietary Statement

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the City of College Park, GA by emailing it@collegeparkga.com and place Proprietary Statement Response in the subject line. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.