

GERMANTOWN – HOMEWOOD
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 681
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
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30 December 2016

Mayor Michael Pantelides
Alderman Fred Paone
City Hall 165 Duke of Gloucester St.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Travis Pastrana's Nitro Circus

Dear Sirs;

With great disappointment we learn that this event is still in the running to be staged in the Naval Academy Athletic Association stadium on a weekend in mid-summer 2017. We had thought it buried by our initial rejection.

A few months ago Mr. Paone broached the idea in an informal meeting of the Association. He asked us what we might think of accepting this event on a summer weekend. None of us had had the opportunity to review the Nitro Circus videos on their various web sites. None of us had been told what this circus involves. None of us knew anything about what a pyrotechnic motorcycle circus even is. Hence, the discussion was uninformed, informal, and not to be depended upon.

Nevertheless, the response was nearly uniform in rejecting what was at that time posed as a request by NAAA; one person was indecisive. There is not now, in the midst of the holiday season, an opportunity to convene the Board for a formal vote. I can, however, convey the sense of an informal polling of the available board members.

First, the Nitro Circus is a pyrotechnic show. That is, it begins, according to the videos, with a cannon blasting a flame across the stadium floor into a giant grenade or depth charge-looking thing which itself explodes into a sparking conflagration. One can only assume that the sound matches the size of that explosion. From that point on constantly igniting giant flares and massive lighting are supported by a loud soundtrack of heavy metal music and amplified announcements continuing without interruption. This audiovisual bombardment accompanies motorcyclists, bicyclists, skateboarders, wheelchair riders, and all sorts of wheeled performers as they perform their tricks from

one end of the arena to the other. Given all the other noise, one might assume that the motorcycles are completely unmuffled, so as to add to the atmosphere of hyper-charged excitement.

There can be no doubt this is an extremely loud show. One suspects that because pyrotechnics are not so dramatic in the daytime, the producers will want the show to be at night.

Second, one asks, Why should we be subjected to this event in our neighborhood on an otherwise sleepy summer weekend? What benefit is gained? Not only to us but also to the City as a whole? It is well known that the stadium events are relieved of the obligation to charge an entertainment tax, a portion of which would be returned to the City. The parking income, the food and alcohol income, the merchandise income – from none of that will the City derive much of anything. The predominantly young crowd will not be staying in our hotels nor will many be dining in our restaurants. What do we gain? We as a neighborhood gain nothing but a lost weekend day, an assault on our senses, another day of traffic congestion. Indeed, the NAAA gains all.

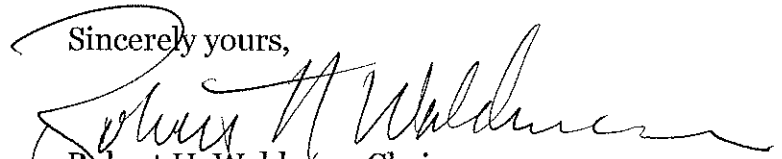
Third, a precedent is set here. Already we live with a full schedule of football games, a bowl game, various foot races, bay bridge race bus shuttles, beer and wine festivals, crab feasts, craft fairs, band tournaments, lacrosse games, high school football championships of various levels, and whatever else can be calendared. The lights are on more and more frequently. But now, with this howling event, the next request for monster truck shows, rock concerts or whatever else can be dreamed up in the name of entertainment (and income for the NAAA) cannot be denied because the Nitro Circus was allowed. And if Nitro Circus 2017 is a success, there will be a Nitro Circus 2018. There is no end to this.

Finally, it has been said we need to honor the young man who is the ringleader of this circus, Mr. Travis Pastrana, because he is a hometown-boy-made-good. He is not a hometown boy; he is from Davidsonville. How is granting him the opportunity to make money on our inconvenience in any way an honoring? He is doing nothing for Annapolis except by, as they say in the circus world, strutting his stuff. This is not honoring him; this is a victory lap and by accepting the burden we are the defeated. Give him a key to the city and a photo in the paper.

The agreement between the NAAA and the City must limit the types of events permitted in the stadium. There must be a process to check the ability of the NAAA to continue to impose on our hospitality.

We ask you to begin that process immediately.

Sincerely yours,



Robert H. Waldman, Chairman

Cc: Alderman Budge
Alderwoman Pindell-Charles
Alderwoman Finlayson
Alderman Arnett
Alderman Pfeiffer
Alderman Kirby
Alderman Littmann
Chet Gladchuk, NAAA
Admiral Heights Improvement Association
Ward One Residents Association