



October 16, 2009

Re: Accessible entrance at Mount Pleasant Library

To Whom It May Concern:

The Equal Rights Center (the "ERC") is a private not-for-profit civil rights organization that was founded in 1983 by a group of interdenominational clergy and community leaders. The ERC is a comprehensive national civil rights organization in the nation dedicated to furthering the advancement of equal access and opportunity in housing, employment, and places of public accommodations. We are writing to you because we have concerns regarding proposed renovation project at the Mount Pleasant Library and the resulting decrease in access for people with disabilities.

Currently, the Mount Pleasant Library has an accessible front entrance and allows people with disabilities the dignity of entering the library, as do its other patrons, through the front. However, the proposed renovation project will treat the disability community disparately forcing library users with disabilities to enter at the rear of the library. The ERC does not support a renovation plan which decreases access and forces people with disabilities to enter through the back like second class citizens.

The ERC requests that the DC Public Library leadership revisit the proposed plans for the Mount Pleasant Library and create a redesign that includes an accessible entrance on the front of the building, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sincerely,

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