



SARAH'S CIRCLE

Where seniors create a home, serve the community and celebrate life.

September 24, 2009

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Reference: Mt Pleasant Library

To whom it may concern:

Sarah's Circle offers affordable housing and wellness services to 39 very low income senior citizens living in an apartment building at Fuller and 17th Street NW. Our philosophy includes promoting and advocating for opportunities, e.g., library access, that promote learning and intellectual stimulation.

While that philosophy supports renovation of the Mt. Pleasant Library to make it more accessible, we are opposed to the current plan of a very long and elevated ramp to the back of the building.

Many of our residents have mobility challenges. This requires us to put the highest priority on access with the least degree of difficulty. That would appear to be the lower level front entrance.

It is interesting to note that, in addition to advocating for a smaller ramp because of easier access, one resident said, "People like me have had to go into buildings from the back years ago because I'm black. I don't go in from the back anymore!"

Sarah's Circle encourages the Library to spend its resources modernizing the current lower level entrance/ramp at the front of the building. We are opposed to the ramp as currently proposed.

Very truly yours,

Jim Brigl
Executive Director