

STATEMENT

BY THE COUNTRY CLUB HILLS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

May 22, 1984

Normand Desmarais, President

Good evening Mayor Snyder, gentlemen. My name is Norm Desmarais and I am president of the recently rejuvenated Country Club Hills Civic Association. I would like to take this opportunity to present to you several matters of interest to the residents of Country Club Hills.

First, a few words about our association. Country Club Hills Civic Association was formed thirty years ago to represent those 305 families living in the Country Club Hills subdivision, located on the west side of Old Lee Highway, between St. Leo's and Fairfax High School. These 305 families account for approximately 1100 residents. It is a stable community with many original homeowners still living there. Of more interest to you as elected officials however, is the fact that Country Club Hills has 621 registered voters. In the November 1983 election, the most recent for which we have complete records, 43% of those registered voted, casting almost 8% of the city-wide voter totals.

We intend, starting tonight, to be more active in city affairs. Our Vice-President for Civic Affairs, Mr. Larry Larsen, will attend most city Council meetings and he will be our principal contact with City Staff.

Second, I would like to thank several members of the City Staff. Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Ellestead were very helpful in encouraging us to resurrect the Association. Their quarterly City Staff meetings with the Civic Associations are proving to be informative and worthwhile. I also wish to applaud the assistance of Police Chief Smith and, particularly, Officers Peatcher, Barrington, and Welle in helping us organize and train our Neighborhood Block Watch Committee. Thanks to them it is a functioning group with over 70 active patrolling members.

Third, I want to present our views on the Old Fairfax Elementary School. Although the school is not in Country Club Hills, its disposition and future use is of interest to us as city taxpayers. The Board of Directors of the Association agree unanimously that the city should:

1. Sell the main building and as much of the property as possible to appropriate commercial developers. Return the property to the tax rolls. Encourage purchase by a business that will generate employment and, or sales taxes.
2. Retain the softball field and the small playground area for use by local residents and the Fairfax Police Youth Club. Ensure adequate parking for 15 to 20 cars. The road may have to be widened to allow on-street parking.
3. Renovate the original historic elementary school. Investigate the feasibility of a long-term lease for the building, perhaps in conjunction with selling the larger building, to a business tenant willing to pay for the renovation and maintenance of this historic property.
4. Use proceeds from the sale for needed capital improvements to the John C. Wood Community Center or other projects in the **current** Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

The building and property should **not** be given away or sold to non-profit, tax-exempt organizations from which the city gains no additional revenues, but incurs long-term liabilities.

Fourth, and by no means least, the residents of Country Club Hills want to join the entire city in honoring Mr. Lee Wigrin. His many years of devoted, conscientious service to the city are greatly admired and appreciated. He has not only served honorably on the City Council for many years, but he has also given literally thousands of

hours to community and civic service in a wide variety of positions.
Lee, you are one of our city's Founding Fathers. You have worked hard
to get our city going, to increase our tax base, to improve public
safety, to enhance our education system, and to restore our historic
buildings. From Country Club Hills -- Thank you!