



May 12, 2009

City of Racine
c/o Brian O'Connell, Director of City Development
730 Washington Avenue
Racine, WI 53403

Dear Brian:

In the past few weeks, I have fielded numerous calls about when the playground at Festival Park is going to be open. I furthermore witnessed a few hundred kids trying to get in the playground during Pancake Day. Some children actually did enter by climbing under or over the fence. I understand that this playground has been locked up since August of last year when it was damaged during the Mexican Fiesta.

I believe the City has inspected the playground equipment and found it to be unsafe. Neither VenuWorks nor the Parks and Recreation Department have the \$800-\$1,000 needed to purchase the materials for the necessary repairs. I believe the Parks and Recreation Department has volunteered to provide the requisite labor.

We are headed into festival season. We also have a great number of neighborhood children, school and daycare classes that use the playground regularly. We desperately need your assistance in securing \$1,000 for the necessary repairs. Please consider this communication as a formal request for funds from the Local Option Budget of the CDBG Funds or whatever other source there might be available to help with this community crisis.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Devin Sutherland
Executive Director