

Letters to the Editor

Baltimore Sun, March 28, 2008

City's permit rules must be revised

While I agree with the basic argument of the editorial "Art for whose sake?" (March 22), I would like to correct one item: I have not asked for a public hearing on the issue of how permission was granted for this project to go forward.

Artist Lee B. Freeman and his advisers obtained the permit for this fence project after following the city's existing rules. But those rules are clearly flawed. And the fact that the permit was issued without a public hearing is troubling.

I propose to change the approval process so that no city-owned park space is completely closed for more than 72 hours without a public hearing and City Council approval.

My proposed legislation would provide the necessary exceptions for construction and public safety. Closing public access to a park for two weeks in the name of art, however, is not one of those exceptions.

William H. Cole
Baltimore

The writer is a member of the City Council.