

SONYA R. MALUNDA
Associate Vice President

March 11, 2009

Mr. Jack Spicer
5536 South Kimbark Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637

Dear Jack:

I hope this note finds you well.

We are writing to make you aware of the future need to relocate the community garden at 61st Street and Dorchester Avenue. We would appreciate your assistance in sharing this communication with others who use the garden.

We value the contributions that you and your fellow urban gardeners make to our community and to the revitalization of Woodlawn. The University has supported the garden and related efforts for many years.

As you know, South Campus development—which includes the property at 61st and Dorchester—has been a longstanding University goal. And, though we have been pleased to make this property available to the gardeners, we all have known this to be a short-term situation. Construction staging for the planned Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) will necessitate clearing the current garden site after the 2009 gardening season.

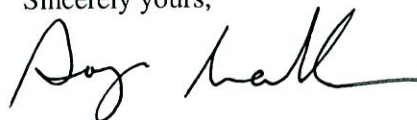
Though the 2009 gardening season will be the last one for the community garden in its current location, we look forward to working with you and the community to identify a new location.

To help facilitate a smooth transition, we are willing to move the topsoil from the current garden to the new location. This soil has benefited from years of preparation, and the relocation will allow the gardeners to start gardening again in 2010 with little—if any—delay.

As previously mentioned, we value our relationship with the community gardeners and all of our neighbors in Woodlawn. It is our hope that a community garden continues to be a resource and a source of pride (and fresh local produce), as well as a symbol of partnership for many years to come.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Many thanks again for your continued support.

Sincerely yours,


Sonya Malunda