

Letter from Chrysandra Walter, Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Park Service (which oversees Independence National Historical Park), to Senator Arlen Specter, July 11, 2007.

Note the following which simply was not an accurate statement, "Mr. Moore is prepared to seriously negotiate a lease agreement with the CWT when they are ready."



IN REPLY REFER TO:
A36 (NER)

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

JUL 11 2007

The Honorable Arlen Specter
United States Senate
600 Arch Street
Suite 9400
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Dear Senator Specter:

I am writing in response to your letter of June 20, 2007, regarding the ongoing operational concerns of the Constitutional Walking Tour of Philadelphia (CWT). Your personal interest in Independence National Historical Park is very much appreciated, and I thank you for taking the time to inquire about this issue. I too hope the National Park Service can reach an agreement with the CWT.

Superintendent Reidenbach did carefully consider your December 7, 2006 proposal to create designated places for tour operators to solicit visitors inside the main south entrance to the Independence Visitor Center (IVC). In Superintendent Reidenbach's response letter to you dated January 16, 2007, he restated the park's position that visitors to the IVC have an unencumbered opportunity to reach the main park information desk before being solicited by tour operators, so visitors can freely make informed program choices. To accomplish this important goal, all commercial operations (including the CWT) have been restricted to the north end of the IVC.

Superintendent Reidenbach then received a letter on February 7, 2007 from lawyers representing the CWT, requesting that he consider moving the IVC tour staging area to improve their visibility because of increased congestion from other tour operators. Superintendent Reidenbach responded to that request in a letter on March 8, 2007 and agreed to relocate the IVC tour staging area closer to the main information desk in time for the busy spring season. The new tour staging area (and the CWT tour guides) is in a more visible location and within just 15 feet of the main information desk. Independence Visitor Center Corporation President Bill Moore recently agreed to the CWT request for an additional table in the north end of the building to promote their program during the summer season. Mr. Moore is prepared to seriously negotiate a lease agreement with the CWT when they are ready.

Superintendent Reidenbach has had numerous discussions and meetings with representatives of the CWT over the past year to address these issues. I think it is important to point out that the IVC main information desk staff already sells CWT tickets, has approved their CD for sale in the

gift shop, and lists their walking tour in the park's newspaper, *The Gazette*. I will continue to work with Superintendent Reidenbach and the CWT to resolve any remaining issues while maintaining the exceptional services visitors expect from their national parks.

Sincerely,



for Chrysandra L. Walter
Acting Regional Director
Northeast Region