

Mr. Charles A. Hook, Director  
Department of Recreation and Parks

(continued)

It is well known that the public park system of Baltimore City embraces a great number of large and small parks, squares and athletic and recreational facilities located in all parts of Baltimore City which are frequented by thousands of people at all times of the year both in the daytime and at night, and that it is absolutely essential that such areas be properly policed at all times. Otherwise, these areas could easily become infested with persons bent on criminal activities and would be unsafe and dangerous for the very people that such areas are intended to benefit. In this connection the Park Board previously operated and maintained a police force which only recently has been merged with the Baltimore City Police Department, and that Department is now charged with the proper policing and protection of all City parks. There seems to be no doubt that if the Park Board were still operating its own police force, it would have the power and authority to occupy space in one of the public parks to erect the necessary radio facilities to be used in connection with patrolling the park areas. It cannot be denied that such use under the aforementioned circumstances would be a public use. It necessarily follows that radio facilities established by the Baltimore City Police Department, which would be used in conjunction with protecting visitors to the City parks, is also a public use of park property for the benefit of the people of Baltimore City who visit and use such facilities.

In view of the foregoing and of the specific power vested in the Board of Recreation and Parks to operate and control park and recreational facilities and activities for the people of Baltimore City; to provide for the preservation of order with respect to all land, property and activities under its control, and to lease park facilities for periods of more than thirty days, with the approval of the Board of Estimates, we are of the opinion that the Board of Recreation and Parks, with the approval of the Board of