



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

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**ANC 3/4G Testimony Before the
Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs
FY 2022 Budget Hearing
Department of Parks and Recreation
June 21, 2021**

Chairperson White and members of the Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs, I am Randy Speck, Chair of ANC 3/4G (Chevy Chase). Thank you for the opportunity to testify at the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR's) budget hearing for FY 2022. I am testifying on behalf of our Commission, which authorized this testimony at its June 14, 2021 public meeting by a vote of 7 to 0 (a quorum being 4). My testimony focuses on the capital budget for a new Chevy Chase Community Center.¹

We are pleased that the budget description acknowledges the ongoing Small Area Planning process and an expectation that a new Community Center will be part of a

¹ "FY 2022 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan," May 27, 2021, Volume 5, FY 2022 through FY 2027 Capital Improvements Plan, page 204, available at <https://bit.ly/3iC2MLE>.

larger project that will include the Chevy Chase Neighborhood Library and co-located housing, including a substantial component of affordable housing. As we testified at the FY 2021 budget hearings,² our Commission supports a Small Area Plan that includes the Community Center and Library on the lower levels and housing above. This consolidated campus can be a focal point for community activities and can provide a model for how other parts of the planning area could be developed for multi-use.

The proposed budget for the Community Center alone is \$17,500,000 in FY 2023 and 2024.³ It is not possible at this time to determine what budget will be necessary for the combined project with the Library and housing. In addition, the project may include funding from the Housing Production Trust Fund for some of the housing component. Finally, the Small Area Plan, which will be completed in late 2021, will provide guidance for development of the Community Center/Library/housing complex. For these reasons, it is prudent to defer a determination on the amount of the capital budget until the Council's consideration of the FY 2023 budget.

In order to link the two projects, we ask that the Committee incorporate language from both the Community Center and the Library capital budgets to read as follows:

Chevy Chase Community Center is located on a site also occupied by the Chevy Chase Library. Both buildings stand at the gateway to the District,

² ANC 3/4G Testimony Before the Committee on Recreation and Youth Affairs, Committee on Education, Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization, and Committee of the Whole Budget Hearing on the Department of Parks and Recreation, DC Public Library, Office of Planning, and Housing Production Trust Fund, May 27, May 29, June 4, and June 8, 2020, available at <https://bit.ly/3fY4hPZ>.

³ Very little of the previously spent funds (\$958,000) will be useful for the combined project, which will have a significantly different scope and will need to be coordinated with the Library.

on Connecticut Avenue near the border with Maryland. The revised Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Council calls for increased density along that corridor of Connecticut Avenue. In response, ANC 3/4G, in budget testimony before numerous committees of the Council, has called for a small area plan that considers the need for more affordable housing—in part co-located on the site of the library and community center—while “also preserving the neighborhood’s hallmark livability and ensuring that new development has a compatible scale, function, and character with the surrounding structures.” The redevelopment of the community center should therefore occur simultaneously with the redevelopment of the library, and both projects—done in tandem, should reflect community interests and planning choices adopted in that small area plan. Funds for the housing component of the project may also include money from the Housing Production Trust Fund. For these reasons, a determination of the required funding level should be delayed until FY 2023.

The project will substantially renovate the building to create a new 21st century state-of-art LEED Silver Rated facility. The scope of work entails providing architectural and engineering services which comprises predesign, design, preparation of contract documents, commissioning, and planning services to accomplish the following: Substantially renovate the structure to fully or substantially comply with ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Buildings and Facilities (September 2002) to include vertical transportation, interior circulation, signage, entrances and exits, walkways, restrooms, alarms, etc. The renovated Chevy Chase Community Center will reflect the program and goals of the Department and the needs of the District of Columbia residents that use the Community Center. The building will incorporate forward-thinking approaches to urban design, architecture, engineering, environmental technologies in the public realm. The renovated Chevy Chase Community Center and Library will be a destination that will attract and support hundreds of users a day, and promote a vibrant, mixed-use neighborhood, and active street environment.

Thank you.