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**Government of the District of Columbia**

**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G**

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

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**ANC 3/4G Resolution Urging Funding**

**For a Feasibility Study to Locate a**

**Senior Wellness Center in Ward 3**

1. ANC 3/4G has long advocated for a brick-and-mortar senior wellness center in Ward 3. The Commission’s June 27, 2016 [resolution](https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Senior-Wellness-Center-resolution-2016.pdf) called on the Mayor, the Department of Aging and Community Living (then the Office on Aging), the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Councilmembers representing Wards 3 and 4 “to establish a fully-funded senior wellness center for Wards 3 and 4 West of Rock Creek Park by 2017.” Regrettably, our seniors continue to be underserved without a physical senior wellness center that is reasonably accessible to them.

2. The [District Department of Aging and Community Living](https://dacl.dc.gov/service/senior-wellness-centers-0) (DACL) operates six physical senior wellness centers located in Wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. For seniors in Wards 2 and 3, DACL provides funding to Iona Senior Services to “build an online directory [known as Around Town DC] that compiles classes, activities, and opportunities that are available in Northwest DC for older adults to enjoy.” The Commission has supported the efforts of Around Town DC, most recently in its February 2020 [testimony](https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/ANC-Testimony-Oversight-Hearing-for-DACL-2-25-20.pdf) before the Council, but this initiative does not address the critical need for a physical place where seniors can gather and receive wellness, fitness, and recreation services and be connected with social and health services, as needed.

3. [Census data](https://www.dchealthmatters.org/demographicdata?id=131490&sectionId=935/) shows that Ward 3 has a higher concentration of seniors than the rest of the District — about 17% of the Ward 3 residents are age 65 and older compared with about 13% District-wide. Social isolation is a problem for older adults that affects both their physical and mental health and is linked to more rapid cognitive decline. More than 58% of DC’s older adults live alone,[[1]](#footnote-2) running a greater risk of social isolation. Senior wellness centers are a significant element in the District’s strategy for addressing this social isolation among older adults. The permanent staff at a senior wellness center are well positioned to observe changes in physical health, cognitive capacity, and the economic circumstances of users, and to provide proactive support that is not available on a virtual platform.

4. The District’s [Comprehensive Plan Policy Map](https://dcgis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=cd1c29c1481f4ddb9cb45490ce16426f) designates significant portions of Ward 3 along the Connecticut Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue corridors as Future Planning Analysis Areas, and the Office of Planning is currently engaged in detailed planning processes for those corridors in Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Tenleytown, Cleveland Park, and Woodley Park.[[2]](#footnote-3) The Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home is also [planning an expansion](https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/CaseReport/CaseReportPage.aspx?case_id=21-11) that may include community space. These initiatives can and should include planning for a senior wellness center.

5. Based on the persistent and acute need for a physical wellness center to serve seniors west of Rock Creek Park, we urge the Mayor, DACL, the Office of Planning, and the District Council to include $100,000, or whatever amount is necessary, to conduct a comprehensive feasibility study in FY 2023 that examines and amplifies the achievements of Around Town DC. The study should incorporate and build on the strengths of wellness centers in other wards and communities, and identify potential sites for, and the feasibility of, a brick-and-mortar senior wellness center located in Ward 3. This study should be coordinated with the Office of Planning’s ongoing planning initiatives in Ward 3.

ADOPTED at ANC 3/4G’s regular, properly noticed public meeting on January 10, 2022, by a vote of \_ yes (Commissioners \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_ no (Commissioners \_\_\_\_\_\_, \_ abstentions (Commissioners \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) (a quorum being 4).

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Randy Speck, Chair Peter Gosselin, Secretary

1. “[A Portrait of D.C.’s Older Adults](https://www.dcpolicycenter.org/publications/a-portrait-of-d-c-s-older-adults/),” DC Policy Center, June 22, 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [Rock Creek West Roadmap](https://housing.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/housingdc/publication/attachments/RCW%2520Roadmap_12.16.21.pdf), District Office of Planning, December 16, 2021, page 16. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)