



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 2023 Budget Hearing
District of Columbia Public Library
April 4, 2022**

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 District of Columbia Public Library’s (DCPL’s) budget hearing for FY 2023. I am testifying on behalf of our Commission, which authorized this testimony at its properly noticed March 28, 2022 public meeting by a vote of 5 to 0 (a quorum being 4). My testimony addresses a mistake in the proposed description of the capital budget for a new Chevy Chase Library.¹

¹ “FY 2023 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan,” March 16, 2022, Volume 5, FY 2023 through FY 2028 Capital Improvements Plan, page 39.

At our Commission’s urging,² the Council changed the proposed description in the FY 2022 capital budget for the Chevy Chase Library to acknowledge the ongoing Small Area Planning process and an expectation that a new Chevy Chase Library will be part of a larger project that will include the Chevy Chase Community Center and co-located housing, including a substantial component of affordable housing.³ The Library has enthusiastically embraced the plan for coordinated development of this key civic core as a focal point for community activities in our neighborhood.

In an apparent oversight, however, the proposed description of the Chevy Chase Library capital budget makes no mention of the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan or coordination with development of the Chevy Chase Community Center and housing.⁴ Indeed, instead of identifying the Community Center as a related project, the proposed budget under “Related Projects” merely states “N/A.”

In order to accurately describe the expected development of a new Chevy Chase Library, ANC 3/4G urges the Committee to substitute in the proposed FY 2023 capital budget the following language that was included in the approved FY 2022 budget:

² See ANC 3/4G Testimony Before the Committee on Recreation, Libraries, and Youth Affairs FY 2022 Budget Hearing District of Columbia Public Library, June 21, 2021; see also 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.

³ “FY 2022 Approved Budget and Financial Plan,” September 17, 2021, Volume 5, FY 2022 through FY 2027 Capital Improvements Plan, page 33.

⁴ “FY 2023 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan,” March 16, 2022, Volume 5, FY 2023 through FY 2028 Capital Improvements Plan, page 39.

Chevy Chase Library is located on a site also occupied by the Chevy Chase Community Center. Both buildings stand at the gateway to the District, 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 — including 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 Library should, therefore, occur simultaneously with the redevelopment of the Community Center, 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 Neighborhood Library will reflect the program and goals of the Library and the needs of the District of Columbia residents that use the library. The building will incorporate forward-thinking approaches to urban design, architecture, engineering, environmental technologies in the public realm. The renovated Chevy Chase Library and Community Center 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.

Justification: The Chevy Chase Branch is in advanced state of deterioration. Originally constructed in 1967, the major mechanical and electric systems are well beyond their service life and cannot be economically repaired. The building has poor and declining energy performance. Operations and

maintenance costs have steadily increased, a trend which is expected to continue as the building ages and replacement parts become more difficult to obtain.

Progress Assessment:

Ongoing project

Related Projects:

QM701 - Chevy Chase Community Center

Thank you.