



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne
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COMMISSIONERS

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ANC 3/4G Resolution On
Proposal to Surplus a Portion of the
Community Center-Library Site
January 23, 2023

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

- 1) ANC 3/4G has played a crucial role over many years in seeking positive change in Chevy Chase DC that would help fulfill the community's role as a full partner with the District and protect and enhance the qualities that attract people here.
- 2) The Commission and a task force of residents carefully analyzed city-drafted amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and sought changes to better pursue District goals for a diverse and inclusive community.
- 3) The Commission asked for and lobbied to have funded a small area planning process that identified the Community Center-Library as a primary locus for change, a place to revitalize crucial public institutions and provide mixed-income and affordable housing.
- 4) The Commission adopted goals for the share of affordable housing at this site, the depth of affordability and the possibility of homeownership that exceeded the city's own goals.
- 5) Since the Council adopted the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan on July 12, 2022, ANC 3/4G commissioners have continued to work with District agencies to prepare budgets for the Community Center-Library project and discuss new zoning that would open the way for responsible change.

- 6) On November 15, 2022, the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED), notified the ANC that it would conduct a “Public Surplus” hearing on Dec. 15, 2023 to “obtain community input...to inform the Mayor’s determination whether a portion of the [Community Center-Library site] is no longer required for public purposes...”
- 7) The DMPED notice was the first time in its years of involvement with the city about the future of the site that commissioners had heard about public surplus. The notification met only the bare minimum legal requirement for public notice. The hearing was scheduled for the midst of the holiday season.
- 8) Only after intensive work by the Commission, including meetings with members of the Council, did DMPED agree to delay the hearing until January 12, 2023 and extend the comment until February 9, 2023. The Commission has prepared this resolution to meet the February deadline.

RESOLVED

- 9) ANC 3/4G believes that surplussing of any sort at this time is *not appropriate* because the Commission and the community do not have the details they need to make an informed choice.
- 10) The ANC is *not prepared* to support surplussing unless and until DMPED works with the Commission to develop and execute a substantial community engagement process that gives residents the opportunity to offer suggestions and site priorities *prior to* issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP).
- 11) The ANC calls on DMPED to extend its timeline for the Community Center-Library project and work jointly and closely with the Commission to:
 - Develop a comprehensive planning process that engages outside experts and looks at the Community Center-Library and beyond to achieve goals;
 - Host a series of public charrettes that provide the visual and factual details residents need in order to usefully comment;
 - Align the community’s desire for reasonable scale with the Mayor’s – *and this Commission’s* – oft-stated goals of helping to house those with the right to live in the community of their choice, but not always the means, and especially those with families in need of space, good schools and services, and a shot at wealth-building homeownership.

APPROVED at a regular public meeting, notice of which was properly given and at which a quorum of four (4) or seven (7) members was present on January 23, 2023 by a vote of X yes, X no, X abstentions.

Lisa R Gore, Chair

James L Nash, Secretary