



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne
5601 Connecticut Avenue N.W. P.O. Box 6252 Washington, D.C. 20015
3G@anc.dc.gov | <http://www.anc3g.org> | YouTube: ANC3G | Office: 202.363.5803

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By Electronic Mail

February 22, 2023

John Falcicchio
Deputy Mayor, Planning & Economic Development
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 317
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Deputy Mayor Falcicchio;

Thank you for hosting the January 12, 2023, Public Surplus Hearing regarding the Chevy Chase civic core site to solicit community feedback on alternative public uses for the site. As you may know, ANC 3/4G has previously expressed support for redeveloping the civic core to include a state-of-the-art library, community center, and affordable housing. I am writing to keep you apprised of the work ANC 3/4G is doing related to the Community Center-Library site, and to reiterate our readiness to work cooperatively with your office to advance a redevelopment project of which we all can be proud.

Throughout this process, the ANC has been keenly focused on community feedback. It is clear to us that the Chevy Chase community remains concerned about shaping the outcome of not only the public facilities portion of the site, but the housing portion of the site as well. While DMPED attended several ANC meetings and held the surplus hearing, it is our opinion that residents remain confused about this process.

On January 19, 2023, ANC 3/4G passed a [resolution](#) where we reiterated our concerns with the surplus process. As stated in the resolution the ANC felt it did not have sufficient details to vote on surplussing and we requested DMPED to work 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 a surplussing decision and issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP). Unfortunately, since our resolution was unanimously passed and issued, DMPED has not begun such a process.

Thus, on February 3, 2023, our advisory Zoning, Design and Development (ZDD) Committee agreed to launch a four-prong process to engage the Chevy Chase community about site priorities and to better understand the financial parameters and potential additional resources that might be brought to bear on the project.

The ZDD established the Charrette/Community Meetings; Community Survey; Financing; and Resources working groups. Committee members have been assigned to each group and those groups have begun meeting to develop a scope of work for their perspective working group's goals. ZDD further agreed to explore the possibility of retaining professional survey and meeting facilitation services to ensure productive interaction with residents.

In consultation with the Commission and full committee, the Charrette/Community Meetings working group will settle on a range of illustrative development options, seek to enlist local architects to provide conceptual drawings that will help focus discussion and organize public meetings. The Survey working group will draft and field a survey that seeks to assess residents' wants and needs related to the site and both gauge and influence community sentiment to guide the Commission's efforts to bring new affordable housing to the neighborhood. The Finance and Resources working groups will seek to better understand the economics of both the public and private sides of the project and to explore whether there are realistic options for development of adjacent parcels.

We look forward to your response to our unanimous January 23, 2023 resolution concerning partial surplussing of the site. Once again, we are ready to work closely and cooperatively with your office and other municipal agencies to achieve goals at the site and elsewhere that are important to both the community and the city. We are scheduled to meet with Gilles Sticker on Thursday, February 23, 2023 to discuss our efforts in person and continue our conversation on working jointly to inform the community about this process.

Sincerely,



Lisa R. Gore,
Chair, ANC 3/4G

cc; Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia
Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Matthew Frumin, Councilmember, Ward 3
Janeese Lewis George, Councilmember, Ward 4
Robert C. White Jr, At-Large Councilmember, Chair, Committee on Housing
Kenyon McDuffie, At-Large Councilmember, Chair, Committee on Business &
Economic Development
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Michael Zeldin, ANC 3/4G-04
Peter Lynch, ANC 3/4G-05
Zach Ferguson, ANC 3/4G-07