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

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ANC 3/4G Resolution To Amend the Civic Site RFP

Background and Rationale

ANC 3/4G residents have repeatedly made clear their opposition to tall buildings in Chevy Chase generally and at the Community Center and Library site particularly – in the 2019 and 2023 ANC community surveys, which together gathered several thousand resident responses, as well as numerous Commission meetings over the years.

ANC 3/4G's December 11, 2023 resolution, reflecting these resident views, expressly stated, "Given the concern about building heights, the Commission asks that DMPED (Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development) include an RFP (request for proposals) recommendation that no new building at the site be over 60 feet and a preference for proposals that concentrate height along the Connecticut Avenue side of the site to respect the scale of adjacent single-family homes."

Notwithstanding the resolution, in its <u>RFP</u> for the Community Center and Library site, issued on January 17, 2024, DMPED failed to incorporate the Commission's request. Instead, the RFP allows for building heights as tall as 80 feet, including mechanical or penthouse structures.

DMPED's omission is especially grievous considering it has committed to following the <u>OurRFP</u> process in pursuing the redevelopment of the Community Center and Library site to "ensure that the public's perspective and priorities are understood in conjunction with the District's goals when crafting and issuing the RFP for this District-owned parcel." DMPED has breached, at a minimum, the spirit of its own process.

The Commission is as mindful now as it was when it approved its December resolution that the DC Office of Planning has proposed new zoning for the Community Center and Library site that would allow buildings as tall as 80 feet. Yet, as "the ANCs' mainjob is to be their neighborhood's official voice in advising the District government ... on matters that affect their neighborhoods," and the matter of building heights is of manifest concern to the Chevy Chase neighborhood, it behooves ANC 3/4G to reiterate its request to DMPED.

Resolution

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The Commission requests that DMPED amend the Chevy Chase Community Center and Library site RFP to incorporate the restriction that no new building at the site be over 60 feet in total, including any mechanical or penthouse structures, with a preference for proposals that concentrate height along the Connecticut Avenue side of the site to respect the scale of adjacent single-family homes.

APPROVED at a regular public meeting, notice of which was properly given and at which a quorum of members was present on February 26, 2024 by a vote of yes, no, and abstentions.	
Lisa Gore, Chair	Bruce Sherman, Secretary