

Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B



[DRAFT] RESOLUTION #4B-23-0405

Supporting Funding of a Public Library in the Brightwood Park/Manor Park Neighborhood Adopted April 24, 2023

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (the Commission) takes note of the following:

- In 2020 the DC Public Library (“DCPL”) conducted an assessment titled [DC Public Library’s Facilities Master Service Plan 2021-2030](#) (the “Plan”). The Plan identified six areas in the District as having gaps in service with respect to public library access. DCPL noted that gaps in service may include geographic isolation as well as insufficient transportation options. The Plan identified in its [Library Usage Assessment: District-wide Scan](#) that one of the six (6) areas having a gap in service is Brightwood Park/Manor Park¹. As a result of the Plan, members of the community have expressed interest in a library in Brightwood Park/Manor Park (the “Library”) with a possibility of the Library being located at the intersection of 5th St., NW and Kennedy St., NW.
- The Plan identified that the Brightwood Park/Manor Park area “has a high concentration of individuals ... living in the area who do not currently use the Library and have the potential to become customers.” *Id.* at 33. Expanding library services to this area may relieve pressure on the services of the Petworth Library nearby (a full-size library with low square feet per capita due to population density). Furthermore, the Plan included language noting that “This area has a high concentration of individuals with low educational attainment, children ages birth to 9, and single parent households.” The Commission condemns the use of this language to describe our community and encourages future DCPL documentation, plans, and studies to consider including more empathetic language to describe these communities.
- The primary location that has been identified as being a potential site for the Library (e.g. 5th St., NW and Kennedy St., NW) has experienced a [significant](#)

¹ DC Public Library, Facilities Master Service Plan 2021-2030, Appendix B, Library Usage Assessment: District-wide Scan, at 31 (2020).

[amount of crime, including shootings and homicides](#). Research has shown that the proximity of libraries [may contribute to the substantial reductions of robberies, vandalism, fraud, and assault](#). In her [Ward 4 Dispatch newsletter](#), Councilmember Janeese Lewis George has noted that “Kennedy Street has been systematically underinvested...over decades...and this has exacerbated many of the issues that Kennedy Street now faces – from blighted buildings to public safety.”

- There is significant importance in neighborhood libraries acting as a valuable resource for communities; providing community members with access to knowledge, information, and educational opportunities. Neighborhood libraries, including public goods spending, [have been shown to make significant contributions to community members quality of life](#). The [local GARE](#) has identified libraries as having been at the forefront of local and regional initiatives to proactively change the policies, practices and systems that create barriers to prosperity and well-being for people of color.
- DC Public Library recently enlisted the assistance of an independent third-party (LINK Strategic Partners) to assist with the management of a Community Engagement survey (the “Survey”). The Survey sought input from individuals throughout the city to determine the wants and needs of District residents with respect to libraries. The results of the Survey indicated, among others, that libraries have changed and evolved since COVID. Libraries that are in the DCPL inventory must continue to evolve as well, in order to [meet the diverse needs of District residents](#).
- In addition to libraries continuing to serve as a critical resource for checking out books and media, as well as serving as in-person meeting spaces, they now [play a critical role in learning, job training, and virtual education](#). The Commission recognizes the important role of distance learning, online training, and remote education when it comes to keeping individuals employed and in satisfying jobs and careers. When Mayor Muriel Bowser visited the opening of the Lamond-Riggs/Lillian J. Huff Library, a library proudly located within the ANC 4B Commission’s boundaries, the Mayor recognized that [“We are proud that here in DC, our libraries are constantly evolving to better meet the needs of our community – whether that need is books, or spaces to gather, or even access to COVID tests.”](#)
- The Commission is thankful for the work of ANC 4D Commissioners Kate Judson (4D02) and Joy Pickney (4D01) which includes an ANC 4D [resolution \(4D-2023-04\) Supporting A Library at 5th and Kennedy St., NW](#) , as well as a prior ANC 4D resolution [Urging DCPL to Allocate Funds to Establish a Library in Brightwood Park \(04/21/2022\)](#). Furthermore, the Commission supports and reinforces Councilmember Janeese Lewis George’s [call for ‘bringing a public library to Kennedy Street’](#).

RESOLVED:

The Commission calls on the District government and Councilmember Janeese Lewis

George to identify and allocate funds to be used towards the development of a permanent and accessible library in the Brightwood Park/Manor Park neighborhoods, including but not limited to the locations identified throughout this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Commission calls on DC Public Library, the DC Public Library Foundation, and the Department of General Services to work to identify additional funds, which may include private and/or federally available funds, grants, or [endowments](#) that would allow for either the creation of new libraries or the support and improvement of existing libraries in Ward 4, so long as such funding is consistent with ANC's [Resolution #4B-22-0201](#).

FURTHER RESOLVED:

The Commission requests that any new libraries built in the District be equipped with modern amenities and resources that address the unique needs of the community, including the needs of nearby schools and daycares, nearby recreation center(s), and the [Ward 4 short term transitional housing](#) site, opened in 2018, pursuant to Mayor Bowser's initiative to close and replace DC General. Modern amenities including but not limited to meeting spaces, study areas, and WiFi that will serve the needs of the community and fill the service gap as identified by DCPL.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Commissioner Michael Cohen, ANC 4B07 and Tiffani Nichole Johnson, ANC 4B06, are hereby authorized to serve as the Commission's representatives in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, if the designated representative Commissioners cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by roll call vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of members was present) on April 24, 2023, by a vote of yes, no, abstention.