



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

January 31, 2023  
*Transmitted Electronically*

Dear Deputy Mayor Falcicchio,

We write to you in anticipation of a Request for Proposals being released for the [District-owned site at 1617 U Street NW](#), currently home to the FEMS Engine 9 and MPD 3<sup>rd</sup> District Headquarters.

We look forward to this site being redeveloped with new housing, a substantial portion of which will be affordable as required by D.C. Code Section 10-801.

In addition to a significant amount of affordable housing, we strongly urge you to include a requirement for a new public library facility for any redevelopment proposal at this site, and for you to begin working with DCPL to begin the planning required to bring a new public library location to U Street.

This site, on the border of Wards 1 and 2, is a prime location for a new library. In fact, there is no location more perfectly suited to closing a significant gap in library service, as identified in the [Library Facilities Master Plan for 2021-2030](#). That plan identified the area between Adams Morgan and Dupont Circle as one of six main service gaps:

*“The area is situated between three libraries: Mt. Pleasant, West End and Shaw. These libraries have some of the highest usage in the library system and have the most populated service areas. The majority of the District’s library customers come from this center city area...Expanding library services to this area may relieve pressure on the services of libraries in the center-city area where full-size libraries have low square feet per capita due to high population density.”*

**We are very fortunate to have a site that is already publicly owned and sits right at the center of this gap in library service.** To omit consideration of a library from the redevelopment of 1617 U would be squandering an opportunity to serve DC residents with a need that many of them have identified.

A library at this site creates opportunities beyond closing a service gap. Libraries serve as cultural hubs; having a library on U Street would establish a permanent space to reinforce the past, present, and future of U Street – Black Broadway – as an artistic and cultural destination, furthering the vision of the DUKE Small Area Plan. A DCPL facility on U Street could emphasize music and the arts in its collections and add to the lineup of performance spaces on U Street with the programming resources of the Punk and Go-go Archives. 16<sup>th</sup> and U is, after all, only a few blocks away from Chuck Brown Way and Lil’ Benny Way.

Finally, a library facility on U Street will add another anchor for daytime traffic on the corridor, a long-held desire of the community.

We hope you will take this into consideration as you finalize materials for this forthcoming Request for Proposals.

Sincerely,



Brianne K. Nadeau  
Ward 1 Councilmember



Brooke Pinto  
Ward 2 Councilmember

cc:

Members of the DC Public Library Board of Trustees  
Richard Reyes-Gavilan, Director, DC Public Library  
Daniel Lyons, DMPED  
Councilmember Trayon T. White, Sr, Chair, Committee on Recreation, Libraries,  
and Youth Affairs  
Ashleigh Fields, 1B07 Commissioner  
Sabel Harris, 1B08, ANC 1B Chair  
Zachary Adams, 2B08 Commissioner  
Meg Roggensack, 2B01, ANC 2B Chair