

Appendix W-2: Ask DC Government Bodies to Address ANC 1D resolutions on the MP Library

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Ask DC government bodies to address ANC 1D resolutions on the MtP Library

Resolved, ANC 1D advises the DC government bodies listed in Appendix A to accord 1D's resolutions the Great Weight due in considering permits and the changes in facilities and services associated with the redevelopment of the Mt Pleasant Library. In particular, 1D asks, in accordance with law, that this resolution be acknowledged within ten days, and that all the points be answered in particularity from the perspective of 1D.

DCRA and other permitting agencies should not issue permits, and permits should be withdrawn if already issued, until the points raised in the resolutions are resolved in accordance with the ANC law.

With the provisos listed in Appendix B, this resolution readopts all previous 1D resolutions on the MtP Library, listed in Appendix C.

Here, and new, the resolutions reinterpreted but largely unchanged except for the insertion of a scheme of points, where each point is to be specifically answered in accordance to the directives of case law. There are 183 points remaining not legally answered out of 13 resolutions. The points are arranged for convenience in an outline format but with the intent that each point be considered as a point of advice requiring an answer, regardless of where it appears in an outline structure.

The additional change of this resolution is that whereas the original resolution was directed to one or a few agencies, now the resolutions are directed to a larger number of bodies. Wherever concerns are listed as points of discussion, the intent of this resolution is to ask that they be considered as points of advice to all agencies noted in Appendix B, requiring Great Weight acknowledgment and answers.

The "Why" parts of the various resolutions, as well as the Appendices, must be considered as included in this resolution with no difference in importance than had they been inserted at their point of mention.

Why

Many bodies of DC government have failed to faithfully observe the ANC law and case law on handling of ANC resolutions. This resolution compiles and updates those resolutions, and further separates out the points to be answered. The intent here is to clarify the status of the resolutions, and especially, how the underlying issues are to be addressed.

Explicit statement that the "why" portions and appendices must be considered as fully and unweakened parts of the resolution may seem foolish; it is here because DCPL tried to evade the ANC law by ignoring them.

Appendix A

The point of listing liaisons is to include in this resolution a request to forward so that inattention cannot be blamed on 1D's failure to track down who, by the ANC law, is the latest designated liaison. This excuse has been used before.

The Mayor of DC.

The Mayor's Agent - for handling historical preservation issues. Apparently, the current incumbent is the Director of the Office of Planning; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

The Council - this includes the relevant committees, especially the Committee on Libraries, and the Member for Ward One, and the At-Large Members.

DCPL - DC Public Library. The ANC liaison appears to be currently Archie Williams; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

The Library Board - The Board of Trustees of the DC Public Library. John W. Hill Jr. is President; an executive order places responsibility for obeying the ANC law on the heads of independent boards and commissions.

OP - the Office of Planning. The ANC liaison appears to be currently Geraldine Gardner; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

dDoT - The DC Department of Transportation. The ANC liaison appears to be currently Aaron Rhones; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

DPR - The Department of Parks and Recreation. The Interim Director is Jesús Aguirre.

DCRA - the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. The ANC liaison appears to be currently Nicholas Majett; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

HPRB - Historic Preservation Review Board. This independent Board is chaired by Tersh Boasberg, but is housed in the Office of Planning.

FEMS - Fire and Emergency & Medical Service. The ANC liaison appears to be currently William Wright; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

Office of Zoning (OZ) also support the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) and the Zoning Commission (ZC). The ANC liaison appears to be currently Sara Bardin; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

Agencies dealing with seniors and the handicapped include:

Disability Rights, Office of - The ANC liaison appears to be currently Susie McFadden-Resper; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

Aging, Office of - The ANC liaison appears to be currently Courtney Williams; if not, then resolutions should be forwarded.

Appendix B - 183 points in 13 resolutions.

The newly authorized resolutions, in Reverse Chronological Order of their original passage, are

1. 20100316__ANC1D advises the DC Council to disapprove DCPL contracts for the Ward One (MtP) Library

15 points.

For: the Mayor, the Mayor's Agent, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA, BZA, FEMS, agencies dealing with seniors and the handicapped.

2. 20091006__The HPRB should send DCPL's MtP library back for redesign.

58 points.

For: the Mayor, the Mayor's Agent, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA, BZA, FEMS, agencies dealing with seniors and the handicapped.

3. 20090721__Reform the Mount Pleasant Library plan

3 points.

For: the Mayor, the Mayor's Agent, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA, BZA, FEMS, agencies dealing with seniors and the handicapped.

4. 20090616__Library Design Modifications For Fire Safety

5 points.

For: the Mayor, the Mayor's Agent, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA, BZA, FEMS, agencies dealing with seniors and the handicapped.

5. 20090317-05 The Mount Pleasant Library

4 points.

For: the Mayor, the Mayor's Agent, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA, BZA, FEMS, agencies dealing with seniors and the handicapped.

6. 20081202-13 Freeze on the Ice Cube blockage by DCPL.

The concerns about the planned large structure to the back and west side of the present library building remain with the new structures, and still remain to be answered. Re-passing this resolution asks that the concerns be addressed in terms of the proposed new added structures.

16 points.

For: the Mayor, the Mayor's Agent, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA, BZA, FEMS, agencies dealing with seniors and the handicapped.

7. 20080902-07 DCPL should engage in serious discourse with MtP & ANC1D For: the Mayor, the Mayor's Agent, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA, BZA, FEMS, agencies dealing with seniors and the handicapped.

4 points

For: the Mayor, the Council, DCPL, the library Board.

8. 20080812-03 ANC1D advises DCPL to delay closing the MtP Branch Library until it follows the law on engagement.

35 points.

For: the Mayor, the Mayor's Agent, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP

9. 20080812-02 Delay closing Mt Pleasant Branch Library until funds are available for a local temporary facility.

0 points remaining. This was answered satisfactorily by intervention from Councilmember Graham. No further response is needed.

10. 20080723-05 ANC1D advises DCPL to delay closing the MtP Branch Library until it follows the law on engagement.

6 points.

For: the Mayor, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA.

11. 20080701-15 ANC1D Asks the DC Council and Mayor to Delay Reconstruction of the Mount Pleasant Library and Insist on Local Engagement.

12 points.

For: the Mayor, the Council, DCPL, the library Board.

12. 20080318-17 Advice to DC Public Library Board for a more systematic upgrade, not just a refurbishment, of the Mount Pleasant Branch Library.

21 points, because this resolutions endorses a resolution of a civic group, and thus these points must be given Great Weight answers.

For: the Mayor, the Council, DCPL, the library Board, OP, dDoT, DPR, DCRA.

13. 20080318-16 DC Public Libraries should alert ANCs, including 1D, on planned changes in service, and allow response

4 points.

For : the Mayor, the Council, DCPL, the library Board.

Appendix C - ANC1D resolutions on the Mount Pleasant Library, with points noted

Full Resolutions in Reverse Chronological Order.

ANC1D advises the DC Council to disapprove DCPL contracts for the Ward One (MtP) Library

Resolved, ANC 1D advises the DC Council – and in particular the Committee on Libraries, Parks & Recreation – to disapprove contracts submitted by the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) for the Mt Pleasant Branch Library, and to indicate that no contracts will be approved until several conditions are fulfilled, listed below:

1. Local needs: DCPL submits a revised design after serious consultation with the local ANCs that

1a. Reflects the distinctive needs of the neighborhood and local users by asking ward one ANCs for their ideas, and funding a study of local needs and alternative approaches.

1b. Respects the almost unique historical traditions of this Carnegie library by not encumbering it with a distracting and discordant 'hunchback'. The two other Carnegie branch libraries (Southeast & Takoma Park) did not suffer such bloat.

1c. Facilitates rather than hinders future emergency access by a ladder fire truck to about a dozen older apartment buildings, by using an expansion of the ground floor entrance reduces the difficulty of access by seniors, handicapped, and families with infants and kids.

1d. In particular, 1D urges the DC Council to make clear to DCPL that – compared to decades of better future benefits and the very large capital costs – designs must be based on local needs and neighborhood distinctiveness, not a DC-wide template.

1e. 1D urges the DC Council to give priority to the safety needs of neighbors by waiving the "by-right" development of this government agency so that these issues may be addressed, say by the Board of Zoning Adjustment, and by the Historic Preservation Review Board.

1f. Specifically, 1D advises the DC Council to require that the design be developed in collaboration not only with ANCs but the Department of Transportation, the Office of Planning, and the Department of Parks and Recreation so that this investment can be leveraged with the neighboring

facilities for greater public benefit. The Office of Planning (and 1D) has observed that this could be a gateway that would greatly enhance cross-ANC traffic, and aid the smallest main commercial corridor of ward one's four ANCs.

2. Uphold the law: DCPL fulfills its legal duty of DCPL to notify and give Great Weight to local ANCs of planning and design process, and does so by demonstrating utmost respect for code and case law to answer each point raised by ANCs in particularity from the perspective of the ANC and with evidence-based arguments.

2a. In particular, 1D urges the DC Council to make clear to DCPL that there are no rewards for shirking or skirting the ANC and other laws.

2b. 1D urges the DC Council to insist that the law be upheld – the main entrance of any substantially rehabbed public building must be accessible to all.

3. Larger, longer-term benefits: DCPL revises the design and process to facilitate adapting to major changes of the next half century in technology and public engagement.

3a. In particular, 1D urges the DC Council to make clear to DCPL that an approved design must provide for low-cost and high flexibility to adjust spaces to meet the needs of future studies that have been promised but not done.

3b. Similar flexibility is needed for DCPL to anticipate and adjust to the radical changes now arising from new technologies and patterns of information development and application.

3c. Already, arguments for using better present practices to increase effectiveness by a factor of ten has been brought to DCPL's attention, which they have ignored.

3d. A further gain in cost-effectiveness seem possible and even likely. It appears that the DC Council need require changes in DCPL's management culture, and in the facility plan to facilitate systematic learning.

20091006__ The HPRB should send DCPL's MtP library back for redesign

Resolved, ANC1D, asking Great Weight, advises the Historic Preservation Review Board, the Mayor's Agent, the Mayor, the Board and Staff of the DC Public Libraries, to heed the following points:

I. 1D advises HPRB &c to oppose DCLP's rear addition design.

A

1. DCPL's proposed design does not meet the Guidelines for Additions to Historic Buildings (Guidelines) published by the Historic Preservation office.

2. Nor does it appear to 1D – and its hundreds of residents attending the sixteen meetings called on the design – to preserve and extend the historic qualities of the Mt Pleasant Branch Library.

3. This library, listed on the DCPL website at the address of 1600 Lamont St, is described in the 1985 application for the Historic District as the primary contributing building to this District. Thus, it is of paramount importance that the many qualities and architectural cultural objects and tropes be preserved.

4. As this review below reveals, the addition proposed for the Mount Pleasant Branch Library fails to meet numerous basic tests of compatibility and should not be approved by the Historic Preservation Review Board without significant revisions.

B.

DCPL's design fails 1D's observation, that of its residents and, in rare unanimity among 1D's civic associations, and the Guidelines for the following points:

1. Setback (distance from property lines): While the addition is on the rear, it is visible from behind the library on both sides. It does not respect existing setbacks from either side lot line.
 2. Orientation (direction the building faces): The library faces northeast while the addition faces due north and invites replacement of the monumental entrance by one adjacent to rear trash storage of two neighboring buildings.
 3. Scale (relative size of building in relation to its neighbors): The library is a monumental structure surrounded by other large buildings and also several small townhouses. The addition is also of monumental scale but too large vis-à-vis the library. An addition to a historic structure should defer to and not compete with it.
 4. Proportion (relationship of dimensions of building elements): Location of windows in addition are at the same height as the library where they exist but they are smaller and partially obscured by pieces of wall cladding, neutralizing the visual effect.
 5. Rhythm (spacing of repetitive façade elements): The rhythm of the library is given primarily by beautifully articulated windows with multiple lites in a simple limestone façade, while the addition offers a busy wall pattern with simple windows partially screened by the wall material.
 6. Massing (use of projections such as steps and porches): The projection of the addition to the west property line with the associated ramp creates a new dominant projection that detracts from the massing of the existing building.
 7. Height (of walls, cornices, and other projections): The apparent heights of the walls of the addition are at the level of the cornice of the library, but the addition has no cornice or other projections or raised details. The totally smooth surfaces contrast unfavorably with the classical details of the library.
 8. Materials (for walls, windows, roofs and other visible elements): The library is limestone with a limestone-colored terra cotta cornice, wooden double hung windows, and a peaked red tile roof. The addition appears to utilize limestone blocks for the basement level but then switches to elongated terra cotta baguettes arranged in obvious columns into which the windows partially disappear. The material of the windows is not identified but the configuration (single lites) does not match the library. What appears as a roof from a distance is actually a slanted open screen to shield the view from below of equipment on the flat roof.
 9. Colors (of materials): The library is grey below and red above. The addition proposes a mixture of red and grey on the exterior walls, with red baguettes being interspersed with grey on the second floor and the rooftop screen being entirely red. The colors are within the same range but the arrangement is jarring.
 10. Roof Shapes: The screen projecting above the roof of the addition is slanted at the rear to imitate the lines of the library roof but juts straight upward on the atrium side of the addition. The roofs in fact do not have similar shapes and do not appear compatible.
 11. Details and Ornamentation: "An addition should consider the amount, location and elaborateness of existing details and ornamentation in its design," but should not copy them or obscure, damage or remove them. With the exception of the sun room, which would be removed, the proposed addition would not damage existing exterior details.
But its very plainness and lack of attractive detail clash and are thus incompatible with the library.
 12. Reversibility: Again, with the exception of the sun room, the proposed addition could in theory be removed at a future date without significant damage to the original exterior structure.
- II. 1D advises HPRB &c to oppose DCLP's ADA access design.

The large and complicated ramp design destroys the historical symmetry of the structure by attaching a mass that from a westerly approach dominates the appearance of the building, as supported by the following points from the vantage of the neighborhood:

1. As testified in 1D's many (16) public meetings, the popular impression is predominantly:

1a. It is ugly, and destroys the previous symmetry.

1a1: The new form in its size distracts attention from the whole, historically open and balanced current structure.

1a2: The proposed ramp includes many discordant parts. While the present structure harmonizes its many parts, DCPL's west-side structure is a jumble.

1b. It is too large for its function, so that the new mass of about a hundred tons seems not just a deviation but an obsession for some unknown motive.

1c. When approached from the west, the fence, the size, the complexity of masses, the incongruity of the extended structure that is revealed in transit presents an experience that attracts interest and is completely different from the slow reveal of neo-classic renaissance detail of the current building.

2. It is difficult and maybe dangerous in sense, in stark negative contrast to the clean classicism of the current building.

2a. Much like a structure that includes a menacing overhang of a large mass, the long ramp bespeaks inconvenience, a long hike with twists and turns.

2b. Since the ramp is for wheelchairs, the long rise provoked many handicapped observers in 1D meetings to express alarm at the implicit dangers of runaway chairs, or abuses by skateboarders.

2b1 The long narrow route is hardly inviting. These observations are seconded in the latter from Sarah's Circle in the appendix.

2b2. The ramp is over a hundred feet long, and much is obscured. There are almost no humane and user friendly touches that best applicable design could provide.

The lack of these facilities reinforce the impression that the ramps import is to denigrate its users. This point is reinforced in the next point.

2c. In contrast to the sense of personal elevation intended with the current steps, or the welcoming and broad incline possible with a terrace entrance, observers at 1D meeting complained that the difficulty presented, and the rear entrance bespeaks an insult.

2d. It is as though the intent of segregating children (who, as contemporary documents attest, should be neither seen nor heard) have been broadened to an entire underclass. DCPL's architects may have intended, as they testified, to provide a greater welcome to the handicapped. Instead, from 1D's audiences, they have done the opposite.

The oppressive appearance noted by many in 1D's meetings contrast to the ease and functionality of the current design, and modest ADA ramp. ANC1D has before resolved to recommend development of the terrace alternative. That alternative can better provide an inviting enhancement of the current design, the principal historic presence in Mt Pleasant, to serve as a gateway.

3. The closed and convoluted spatial logic goes against the logic of open and comprehensible forms of the current building's classical and renaissance origins.

3a. The gated garden could easily attract crime in a high crime area. The architecture of classical and renaissance times also reflect their experience with elevated levels of assaults and personal danger. These very human realities strongly condition human perception, much as a menacing overhang might.

3a1. There are many assaults in this block, so a low gate and patchy environment goes against the previous open design. As shown by surveys by a local neighbor's association, there is a real basis for fear, as there was in classical and renaissance times when the external open architecture of the current building originated. DCPL's design includes many hiding spaces.

3a2. A locked gate and many hidden spaces within the garden and ramp area bespeaks danger and hidden hazards.

3b. The layout lacks the immediate comprehensibility of the current design. The use of perspective and harmonious repetition is completely lacking in DCPL's design.

Because of this, the addition degrades and detracts, and is neither a compatible extension, nor an upgrade.

4. The layout and equipage goes against the empirically derived requirements, for example as shown in Whyte's *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*.

The current design is based on examples in architect Tilden's work that did provide most of Whyte's prescriptions. This design seems to go against the feel of the earlier scheme and its intuitive invitation as a space that welcomes approach. By contrast, adding contributing structures should both conform the intuitive scheme of the present style, and extend its functionality. The following are principles established by Whyte as functional. Essentially all are contravened by DCPL's design.

4a. There is very little natural flow. Instead the garden is a cul-de-sac. The same space if integrated more into the flow for a terrace entrance would satisfy this requirement.

4b. There are no natural landmarks within the space to provide orientation and easy description as meeting places.

4c. There will be low-to-no sunlight except in summer midday, as the garden and ramp are on the north side of the proposed large and tall add-on structure and in the shadow of large buildings both east and west.

4d. There is little sitting space. If the terrace entrance were used, the garden would be joined with a much more inviting outside sitting area with sun and many benches. It could then accommodate schools and other groups.

4e. A variety of sitting places, from one to three feet in height. In DCPL's design, fences, gates, landscaping get in the way in chopping up the space and offering little sitting and variety for diverse human interaction.

4f. To quote Whyte: "Inviting, easy access for all – and , by the way, for kids, and the handicapped." As discussed in other points, this space is neither easy or inviting.

Whyte provides many more points, and much like the starters above. Most are lost in DCPL's proposed design.

III. ANC1D advises HPRB &c to require DCPL to set a program that informs the design based on a needs survey in conjunction with the four ANCs served by this library.

1. The current program was instituted without legal notice and ethical engagement to ANCs.

2. The structure was not designed with flex space, and so fails to adopt prudent design that respects the unknowable future.

3. The choices for ADA access, and one of the principal driving forces for the design logic, was specified based on current usages, not best practice and technology for access and security.

4. The rationale for meeting space, staff space, computer access, and children's programs were all made with incomplete and inadequate information easily available to a more collaborative process:

4a. The proposed meeting space does not afford as much space as now present – 120 often in meetings and another 80 in the space adjoining via double doors. This space can easily be almost doubled without building a rear extension.

4b. Staff space is feasible on the Terrace level, especially since much of the equipment could be moved behind the roof line.

4c. Computer access in modern practice should be distributed throughout all functional areas. For almost two decades now, computing in modern practice is ubiquitous.

DCPL fails to keep up with modern thinking.

4d. Childrens' programs - according to much of DCPL's staff - could be better handled with simple reconfiguration of current space, using flex-space principles and dividers. Currently, the program reaches less than a fifth of needs of the ca. sixty educational programs within six or seven blocks.

5. DCPL now does not know the neighborhood. They wrongly testified that the majority of residents support the plan.

5a. This is contradicted by extensive public participation efforts by 1D. The only majority vote they ever achieved was in one meeting when a large contingent of DCPL staff and consultants voted and still a strong majority of residents opposed the DCPL design.

5b. Notably, DCPL ran the meeting, and there was no substantial presentation of alternatives and their consequences, the standard required by the code of ethics of the International Association for Public Participation. A list of the 16 meetings (co)sponsored by 1D is in the appendix.

Appendix 1: Letter dated September 24, 2009, from Sarah's Circle, opposing the ramp design

SARAH'S CIRCLE Where seniors create a home, serve the community and celebrate life.

2551 17th Street, NW; Suite 103

Washington, DC 20009

September 24, 2009

Reference: Mt Pleasant Library

To whom it may concern:

Sarah's Circle offers affordable housing and wellness services to 39 very low income senior citizens living in an apartment building at Fuller and 11th Street NW. Our philosophy includes promoting and advocating for opportunities, e.g., library access, that promote learning and intellectual stimulation.

While that philosophy supports renovation of the Mt. Pleasant Library to make it more accessible, we are opposed to the current plan of a very long and elevated ramp to the back of the building.

Many of our residents have mobility challenges. This requires us to put the highest priority on access with the least degree of difficulty. That would appear to be the lower level front entrance.

It is interesting to note that, in addition to advocating for a smaller ramp because of easier access, one resident said, "People like me have had to go into buildings from the back years ago because I'm black. I don't go in from the back anymore!"

Sarah's Circle encourages the Library to spend its resources modernizing the current lower level entrance/ramp at the front of the building. We are opposed to the ramp as currently proposed.

Very Truly Yours

Executive Director

Appendix 2: Meetings focused on ANC1d Mount Pleasant Library Issues

01] 2008 03 18 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

2 resolutions passed on MP Library.

1. "DC Public Libraries should alert ANCs, including 1d, on planned changes in service, and allow response"

2. "Advice to DC Public Library Board for a more systematic upgrade, not just a refurbishment, of the Mount Pleasant Branch Library"

02] 2008 07 01 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"ANC1d Asks the DC Council and Mayor to Delay Reconstruction of the Mount Pleasant Library and Insist on Local Engagement"

03] 2008 07 23 (we) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"Delay closing Mt Pleasant Branch Library until funds are available for a local temporary facility"

04] 2008 08 12 (tu) ANC1d Special meeting.

Topics: Library and ABC.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"ANC1d advises DCPL to delay closing the MtP Branch Library until it follows the law on engagement"

05] 2008 09 02 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"DCPL should engage in serious discourse with MtP & ANC1d"

06] 2008 11 11 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

2 resolutions passed on MP Library.

3. "An honest public participation program for the future of the Mount Pleasant Branch Library."

4. "Presentation to the Library Board."

07] 2008 11 19 (we) 1c & 1d Commissioners w/DCPL.

Commissioners Gregg Edwards and Chris Otten met with the DCPL Board at MLK Library. ANC1c and 1d Resolutions were presented. The proposition was stated and confirmed by Historic Mount Pleasant President Faye Armstrong that the staff's proposed design is unacceptable to rare unanimity of Mount Pleasant organizations, including 5 civic associations and the ANC.

08] 2008 12 02 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"Freeze on the Ice Cube blockage by DCPL"

09] 2009 02 17 (tu) ANC 1d meeting.

Agreement on an Informal Meeting on MP Library as stated topic.

Stated topic: MP Library, to be held at the Library on 2009 03 03.

Changed later to 2009 03 17 at La Casa.

10] 2009 03 17 (tu) 1900 ANC meeting. w CM Graham

La Casa 3166 MP Street NW.

Councilmember Jim Graham facilitated the meeting. Large turnout.

ANC-1d hosted a meeting to formulate a resolution bearing the weight of the community in regard to the Mount Pleasant Library project. This follows on the heels of the March 3, 2009 meeting

which brought about pledges of collaboration with DCPL. In attendance were DCPL staff including, Archie Williams - DCPL Intergovernmental Liaison, Chris Wright – Construction Manager, and Joi Mecks – Marketing Director.

The Mayor's Office of Community Outreach Services were there as well represented by Yaiza Burrell and Rachel Kanter.

4 point resolution passed on MP Library.

“Resolved, that ANC1d will work with Council Member Graham to present the concerns of the Mt. Pleasant and Greater Ward 1 Communities to the Library Board of Trustees and entreat them to come to the March 26, 2009 meeting to discuss with great forthrightness and earnestness, the following:”

1. To abandon any consideration of expansion or additions to the existing Mt. Pleasant Library, except possibly to accommodate mechanical upgrades.
2. To restore and renovate the library within the existing walls
3. To examine the question of where else in Ward 1 library services are needed and might be located;
4. To consider alternative design concepts that might meet the needs of Ward 1.

It is the intent of the Commission that points 1 & 2 occur simultaneously with points 3 & 4.

This 1d resolution was approved unanimously in response to the vote of a meeting of over 50 Ward 1 residents in attendance.

11] 2009 03 23 (mo) ANC1d Commercial Corridor.

Topic: Mount Pleasant Library and alternative location on MP Street.

The unanimous sentiment of this large meeting was that the designs and programs submitted by DCPL are lopsided, and do not meet the programmatic needs of the neighborhood.

12] 2009 04 21 (tu) ANC1d meeting

Resolution Passed: “Mount Pleasant Library”

This resolution is essentially the same content as that of 2009 0317. The Library Board did not respond except to not bother to discuss it seriously. Now, the last chance is upon us to ask the DC government to intervene:

ANC1D asks Councilmember Graham and the Committee on Public Libraries, Parks and Recreation - Mayor Fenty, DCPL and its Board, to follow the recommendations that emerged from a series of ward-wide

Meetings on next steps in providing library services:

13] 2009 05 04 (mo) ANC1d & CM Graham, Fire Chief Held at the MP Library.

Large turnout of community. Over 100 people. ANC1d Commissioners McKay, Bosserman, Edwards, Lepanto. CM Jim Graham, DC Public Library, Fire Chief Rubin and EMS Staff, Mayor's Office.

The international fire code appendix recommends 20' of clearance for ladder trucks. Chief Rubin acknowledged this need.

However, on 2009 06 03 DCPL went ahead with their plans, irregardless of the fire-safety issues.

14] 2009 06 16 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

“Library Design Tweaks For Fire Safety”

15] 2009 07 21 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

“Reform the Mount Pleasant Library plan”

16] 2009 09 15 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Agreement to have MP Library as one of stated topics 20091006.

Additional meeting

2009 06 03 Meeting on the MtP Library. Facilitated by CM Jim Graham.

A majority of 1D Commissioners were present.

A majority of residents and commissioners present voted against DCPL's proposal.

However, with the large contingent of DCPL staff voting unanimously for the design, the total number of votes were slightly in favor of the design.

20090721__Reform the Mount Pleasant Library plan

Resolved: ANC1D advises the DC Public Library, and asks the Mayor and Councilmembers and the District offices dealing with the aged and handicapped to intervene with the Library Board and Fire and Emergency Medical Services, to substantially reform the proffered plan for the MtP library's ramp and emergency access to buildings behind the Library. The staff is authorized spend up to \$600 and to work with DC offices and 1D groups to evaluate and report on the challenges to the welfare of local residents of the ramp design.

Why:

1. The proposed ramp distributed to 1D does not reflect current designs posted on the DCPL website.
2. The proposed ramp is over a hundred feet long, with no resting points for the elderly and handicapped, and is a continuing and significant burden and even danger.
3. The proposed ramp blocks the possibility of emergency vehicle, including ladder trucks, access to over ten apartment buildings with perhaps a thousand residents whose safety could be much better assured with such an access.

20090616__Library Design Modifications for Fire Safety

Resolved: ANC1D acknowledges the hard work and effort by DCPL design staff to make changes to the design of the Mt. Pleasant Library Renovation Plans, referred to as Design Scheme F and presented at the meeting on June 3rd at the Mount Pleasant Library and attended by Council Member Jim Graham and several members of ANC 1D.

1. ANC 1D advises the Mayor, DCPL, DCRA, and DCFEMS that despite great progress, we still have significant concern that the current designs of a patio, garden and access ramp along Lamont Street permanently forestall emergency access by large fire-fighting equipment, thereby potentially endangering many residents of the ten or more multi-story apartment buildings to the south.

2. The first priority should be the safety of the residents in these buildings in case of fire. ANC1D requests the DC Council to assist in clarifying and in providing any law changes needed to secure an access route without serious blockages (no cars or masonry fences) that would be in keeping with Appendix A of the most recent International Fire Code.

Why:

1. Over a thousand residents are at risk in case of a fire spreading in one or several buildings in this closely packed area. Almost all of the buildings lack sprinklers and modern fire exits, so fires can quickly isolate and overwhelm many residents.
2. It is essential that a ladder truck be able to reach residents from the space between the buildings. Given the condition of most buildings, a few minutes saved by removing blockages could mean saving many lives.
3. DCPL's current design should be modified to accommodate a minimal barrier along the South side of Lamont Street and the Library's Western property line. DCRA and the DC Council must work with DCPL and other property owners to accommodate an emergency path.

20090317-05 The Mount Pleasant Library

Resolved, that ANC1D will work with Council Member Graham to present the concerns of the Mt. Pleasant and Greater Ward 1 Communities to the Library Board of Trustees and entreat them to come to the March 26, 2009 meeting to discuss with great forthrightness and earnestness, the following:

- 1) To abandon any consideration of expansion or additions to the existing Mt. Pleasant Library, except possibly to accommodate mechanical upgrades.
- 2) To restore and renovate the library within the existing walls
- 3) To examine the question of where else in Ward 1 library services are needed and might be located;
- 4) To consider alternative design concepts that might meet the needs of Ward 1.

It is the intent of the Commission that points 1 & 2 occur simultaneously with points 3 & 4.

20081202-13 Freeze on the Ice Cube blockage by DCPL

ANC1D resolves to advise the DC Public Library (DCPL), Office of Planning (OP), and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED):

1. to explore alternative concepts for this space, such as a mews of development of the clear space between the buildings facing the 3100 blocks of 16th and Mt Pleasant Streets NW, while not selling public space to become private.
2. ANC1D requests that DCPL's branch library plans be altered, in ways consonant with previous resolutions, and that the huge potential advantages of leveraging an expanded but more flexible library space be provided for.

Why:

1. DCPL's proposed 'Ice Cube' – to be constructed over the parking lot on the western side of the Mt Pleasant Branch Library – would annul the best possibilities of developing this large block by plugging its most critical point of access.
 - 1a. Worse, it would hinder the economies of scale and scope coming out of connecting similar developments in adjoining blocks.
 - 1b. It would foreclose the possibility of a back-path whereby fire and emergency vehicles could access a large cluster of apartment buildings with thousands of residents.

1c. It would interfere with safety and convenience of several apartment buildings, especially its neighbor 3155 Mt Pleasant St NW.

1d. If the available funds were instead directed to improving the utility of internal space, providing for modular technological improvements in the future, and extending the space in the rear of the current branch, then the parking lot space could be used temporarily for many other purposes, and the benefits of leveraging the space preserved.

2. The recent fire at the Deauville Apartments – which totally destroyed this habitation, and the spread of the fire and total destruction of the building behind it – vividly demonstrates the imminent threat to thousands of residents in that block.

2a. An emergency access route could have saved much of those buildings. While luckily no one died, hundreds of lives have been disrupted.

2b. Without some simple and low cost design changes, the potential of more than a thousand deaths remain, a threat that could be greatly mitigated by opening access.

3. This open space – especially if connected to the development of similar back-spaces in adjoining blocks – could provide space for hundreds of small shops and offices that together would constitute one of the DC area's largest incubators for innovation and local growth of good jobs.

3a. Not only would this help energize the DC economy, such a development would help promote walkable neighborhoods where far fewer cars would be needed, and where energy consumption and pollution production could be cut drastically.

3b. DCPL could then play a major role in vitalizing this development with information services needed for an innovative economic enclave.

4. If plans are not changed now, our chance to mitigate these threats and leverage the opportunities will be permanently lost.

4a. The proposed structure more points backwards to a 19th century crystal palace built for élite grandeur. Instead, it could inspire a forward vision with an architecture that preserves the best of the past while – behind the facade – dramatically supports personal and economic growth for all parts of our population.

4b. A revised design could serve both the interests in residents' health/safety and their hopes for breakout improvements.

20080902-07 DCPL should engage in serious discourse with MtP & ANC1D

ANC1D resolves to advise the DC Public Library (DCPL) and the DCPL Board:

1. To correctly engage ANC1D, the democratically elected branch of the DC government, by DC Charter and DC law authorized to represent Mount Pleasant.

2. The responses so far from DCPL do not demonstrate the legally required accordance of Great Weight. For example, DCPL fails to provide detailed evidence and arguments to each particular of ANC1D's resolutions, often included in the part of the resolutions denoted by "Why".

Why:

1. As the appeals court ruled in *Kopf v. DC ABC Board*, an agency need not only show it paid attention to ANC resolutions, but must in each specific, "articulate why or why not the particular ANC itself, given its vantage point, does or does not offer persuasive advice under the circumstances..."

2. Please note that DCPL's opinion from its vantage point is not the test, and a mere restatement of its opinion does not in itself constitute any kind of admissible answer.

20080812-03 ANC1D advises DCPL to delay closing the MtP Branch Library until it follows the law on engagement

ANC1D resolves to advise the DC Public Library (DCPL):

1. To delay closing the Mount Pleasant Branch Library until it follows the ANC law on communication with ANC1D, and until there is a chance for substantial consideration of alternative approaches.
2. ANC1D asks the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and DC Council for their assistance in this matter, specifically the Ward One Councilmember and the chair and members of the committee on Libraries.

Why:

1. DCPL has not complied with the ANC laws, nor has it acknowledged nor substantially answered previous ANC1D resolutions on the Mount Pleasant branch library.

1a. Similarly, it has neither acknowledged nor answered resolutions from civic associations whose members are users of the library.

2b. It has not answered critiques of the "community meetings" and does not welcome substantial "input" or "participation", nor reveal much about the situation.

3. These meetings do not replace the legal requirements for substantial communication required by law.

3a. In fact, the very function of the meetings is questionable given Director Cooper's revelation that almost all of the design decisions have been made.

3b. Yet, the recent certified letter suggests there will be more design meetings. This notice is incomplete in many ways.

3c. The laws are clear in requiring relevant agencies to acknowledge and address affected ANC's concerns: § 309.10(d)(3)A states that "The issues and concerns raised in the recommendations of the Commission shall be given great weight during the deliberations by the government entity. Great weight requires acknowledgement of the Commission as the source of the recommendations and explicit reference to each of the Commission's issues and concerns."

4. Furthermore, D.C. Code § 309.10(h)(1) states that "Each Commission may initiate its own proposal for District government action.

4a. The District government entity to which the proposal is made shall acknowledge the proposal in writing to the initiating Commission within 10 days of receipt of the proposal and shall issue a status report to the initiating Commission within 60 days of receipt."

4b. And, according to the text of § 309.10(i)(1) "Each commission shall have access to District government officials and to all District government official documents and public data pursuant to § 2-531 et seq. that are material to the exercise of its development of recommendations to the District government."

5. DCPL is advised to abide by the requirements set forth in the Real Property Disposition Economic Analysis Amendment Act, and the Amended Act of 2006, D.C. Code § 10-801, which requires the Mayor to describe the manner in which economic factors are weighted and evaluated, including estimates of the monetary benefits and costs to the District for contemplated changes to the library structures or associated public property.

4a. § 10-801(f) requires: "The Mayor shall take any steps necessary to ensure continuous community input in the disposition of any real property."

4b. Changing services in public facilities including a public library is undoubtedly a change in disposition, and so invokes the requirements of continuous community input, transparency and economic accountability under § 10-801 et seq.

5. The Mount Pleasant Branch Library sits close to the four corners of the four ANCs in Ward One; this is one of, if not the principal branch library serving Ward One.

5a. The failure to give legally required notices and to sincerely work with ANCs 1A (across the street), 1B and 1C (both two blocks away) constitutes a serious failure in DCPL handling its legal duties, a failure that by itself requires a remediating delay and re-engagement.

5b. Much harm can be inflicted on the residents of Mount Pleasant and Ward One by a rushed design and construction.

6. ANC1D and other civic groups have expressed concerns that the essentially 19th century design theories will greatly constrain the usable potential of the rushed construction for a half century or more.

6a. Director Cooper announced at the 10 June 2008 meeting that she has decided against flex space that allows adaptation and learning in the use of the building. Flex space has been the best practice for building adaptable structures for over forty years, reinforced by scientific studies that show that less than 10% of the life-cycle value is delivered by the initial structure, and less if that structure requires expensive alterations to adjust the space to changing needs.

6b. The delays implicit in Director Cooper's announced decision translate into large future losses of services to users, and a large net present value loss arising from designing a public building without benefit of genuine public discourse.

6c. In this way, failure to delay and mitigate would contribute to substantial harm Director Cooper, again in the 10 June 2008 meeting, announced her decision to keep a design based around large public rooms with a sense of grandeur. Interviews with library staff suggest that such aesthetics the already present aggregation of public space into a few large rooms are already in place and seriously constrains current use to perhaps 20% of current demand for established programs, and perhaps much more for potential programs.

7. A rushed design and construction precludes the possibility of seeking synergies and many additional public benefits that likely will arise out of the current Comprehensive Plan, and the strong possibility of a Special Planning Area focused in a one block wide strip with the branch library almost in the middle.

7a. To rush this plan evades the benefits possible from a synergy in working with the Department of Parks and Recreation, whose headquarters is just across the street, and whose programs offer many points of contact if not overlap.

7b. It evades the synergies possible with working with the over fifty education programs within six blocks, including the more than \$50 million newly opened Columbia Heights Educational Campus across the street.

7c. For a third of a century, a "silo" approach -- to designing public services agency by agency without regard for synergies -- has been depreciated as simplistic.

7d. It is well accepted that having a single agency, like DCPL, design a building and program in isolation loses the possibilities of greatly extended public benefits, and loses one of the few means for increasing public sector productivity.

7e. The stagnation of public sector productivity seems to be one of the major sources of slowed economic growth over the last third century, and has been blamed for impoverishing the country by 40% compared to the trend-line of the previous century. In this way, failure to delay and mitigate would contribute to substantial harm.

8. DCPL's failure to follow public policy and the ANC law evades the synergies of a potential public-private partnership involving a planned unit development where representatives of almost a dozen neighboring buildings have expressed interest; the prospect for such a PUD has included the mutual benefits of a cultural force centered in the library and operating with an endowment deriving from air-rights at the rear (not messing with the historical façade) of the library.

8a. It evades the awesome potential leverage of anchoring several hundred alley oriented low-cost live-above store fronts in the two large blocks of and across the street of the branch library.

8b. An entreprenurage center with a library to support an outcrop of the knowledge economy is already proven to be part of some cities stoking ten times the growth of good jobs than others. DCPL current design approach contributes to great harm.

9. Yes, the loss is important of potential outreach to underserved but yearning to learn neighbors that live nearby in the DC region's largest concentration of low-cost housing and immigrants.

9a. Perhaps the worst impact of DCPL's apparent approach, if not delayed and changed, is the loss of a sense of neighborhood civic effectiveness.

9b. This factor – which has emerged out of statistic studies on what makes neighborhoods work in the sense of more effective schools, lower crime rates, higher health status and longevity, lower recidivism,... – is directly linked to experience of fate control, and thus with the behavior of city agencies.

9c. When DCPL does not follow the ANC law, rudely and systematically ignores civic association resolutions for decades, and puts on "community meetings" that are not open, fair, balanced, and welcoming, then a sense of neighborhood effectiveness withers, along with many other component of Quality of Life measures.

20080812-02 Delay closing Mt Pleasant Branch Library until funds are available for a local temporary facility

ANC1D resolves to advise the DC Public Library (DCPL) to delay closing the Mt Pleasant Branch Library until there are funds available for a temporary facility within three or four blocks of the current facility. ANC1D requests the assistance of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and DC council to become actively engaged in fulfilling this advice, requests the Councilmember for Ward One and the chair and members of the Council committee on Libraries to assist, and requests Councilmember Jim Graham to withdraw his letter asking DCPL to proceed without delay and instead send a letter supporting this resolution.

Why:

Again, the concern of ANC1D is not just the impact of loss of local library service on Mt Pleasant, but on library users in most of Ward One. The MtPL is close to the four corners of all four ANC areas in Ward One, and serves almost equally all four areas.

Since ANC1D's last resolution requesting a local facility, it has become apparent that the current financial condition of the DC government would make fulfillment of our earlier request inconvenient if not politically impractical. Indeed, we hear informally that the current plan would be to close both the Petworth and Mount Pleasant (MtPL) branch libraries at the same time, and open a temporary facility near the Petworth metro station, which is a walk of one mile from the MtPL.

Incorporating, to avoid repeating, the arguments in our previous resolutions asking for delay and for a local temp facility, ANC1D notes that the likely Petworth facility would substantially disrupt the library usage for most of the over fifty educational programs located within six or seven blocks of the current facility, and all serving Ward One.

The delays we suggest need not be major: A rehab project could start soon if designed with flex-space and with provision for later add-ons that could facilitate at least the above mentioned opportunities for leveraging this facility to better serve our neighbors.

20080723-05 ANC1D advises DCPL to delay closing the MtP Branch Library until it follows the law on engagement

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the DC Public Libraries to refrain from any decisions concerning the renovation of the Mount Pleasant Library until ANC1D has been given an opportunity to review specifically the plans for those renovations, and further to undertake consultations with residents of Mount Pleasant, and with ANCs and residents of neighboring communities as well.

Rationale:

- 1 We have not had the opportunity to review any such plans, and
- 2 furthermore we are concerned that the residents of neighboring communities which are equally important users of Mount Pleasant Library have not been consulted.
- 3 A rushed design and construction precludes the possibility of seeking synergies and many additional public benefits that likely will arise out of 3a the current Comprehensive Plan, and 3b the strong possibility of a Special Planning Area focused in a one block wide strip with the branch library almost in the middle.
- 4 To rush this plan evades the benefits possible from a synergy in working with the Department of Parks and Recreation, whose headquarters is just across the street, and whose programs offer many points of contact if not overlap.
- 5 It evades the synergies possible with working with the over fifty education programs within six blocks, including the more than \$50 million newly opened Columbia Heights Educational Campus across the street.
- 6 The delays we suggest need not be major: A rehab project could start soon if designed with flex-space and with provision for later add-ons that could facilitate at least the above mentioned opportunities for leveraging this facility to better serve our neighbors.

20080701-15 ANC1D Asks the DC Council and Mayor to Delay Reconstruction of the Mount Pleasant Library and Insist on Local Engagement

ANC1D resolves to ask the DC Council, DC Public Libraries and Mayor

1. to Delay Reconstruction of the Mount Pleasant Library and
- 2 insist on Local Engagement.
3. Further, ANC1D asks that the ANC law mandating acknowledgement and response to ANC1D resolutions be adhered to.
4. ANC1D advises the DC Council, the Mayor, the DC Public Library (DCPL) Board and administration to assure that DCPL changes its misleading practice of holding "community design" meetings that do not seriously engage residents and other users (like schools) in finding needs and interests.
5. ANC1D authorizes its staff to set a high priority for these changes, and authorizes an expenditure of up to \$3000 to clarify the legal situation sufficiently so that users can decide upon appropriate legal responses. The staff should advertise for and select consultant services to assist towards the success of this project, and seek other partners (on a matching fund basis) and participants.

Why:

1. DCPL has ignored its duty and the law by not responding to ANC1D resolutions on this matter.

1a. Instead, DCPL at great expense has put on so-called "community design" meetings which have mostly been top-down lectures with negligible participation by users and residents, and with small and unrepresentative response from local residents.

1b. At the second such meeting, June 10th, Director Cooper noted that almost all of the decisions had already been made, and that much of the presentation by the architects had already been ruled out by her decisions.

1c. Similarly, there has been no response to the petitions by local civic groups.

1d. This kind of pseudo public meetings appears Machiavellian and would be a farce except for the expense, and for the distraction away from a sincere effort at understanding and providing for the needs of potential users.

1e ANC1D notes that this misbehavior by DCPL seems to be part of a larger pattern around five branches and not just Mount Pleasant, a pattern that has aroused law suits, protests by other ANCs, and the mobilization of neighborhood groups.

2 ANC1D invites participation by other ANCs and civic groups to encourage or force DCPL to obey the law, and start to reap the benefits from a more progressive policy: Encouraging participation from all parts of the city towards greater literacy, public education, and an imaginative engagement in a creative civilization.

3 DCPL's current behavior belies its intended public purpose. We call on other organs of government and civic groups to persuade DCPL away from its patterns of misbehavior that so misrepresent the ideals of civilization supposedly carried in its collections and by its dedicated staff.

20080318-17 Advice to DC Public Library Board for a more systematic upgrade, not just a refurbishment, of the Mount Pleasant Branch Library

Resolved, ANC1D advises the DC Public Library System and Board, the DC Council, and the Mayor, to hold back on the currently planned "light" rehab of the Mt Pleasant Branch library until this Commission, and other groups served by the library, can consider alternatives, some that might offer far better use of the funds.

Why:

1 ANC1D believes that the renovation of the Mount Pleasant Library could complement a number of other public/private opportunities in the immediate vicinity including

1a. the potential relocation of the Department of Parks and Recreation Offices;

1b. the availability of several commercial properties for sale adjacent to and in the vicinity of the library; and

1c. the shared needs of other District Offices to reach residents in Ward 1.

2 This confluence of opportunities should position the District of Columbia Public Library System in

2a. a central role of bringing District Offices together and

2b. re-envisioning the Mount Pleasant Library and

2c. its role in serving the Midtown communities of the District of Columbia.

3 ANC1D would like to see joint planning and implementation by the Public Library System, Housing and Community Development, Planning and Economic Development, Public Schools and Parks and Recreation;

4 The citizens of Ward 1 would like to see an approach to library services that places the resident first and eliminates the bureaucracy that plagues every interaction District residents have today with their government.

5 ANC1D realizes that such coordination, planning, and community involvement will take time.

5a. The Commission believes that reasonable delays in order to produce a better outcome would be worth the time and welcomed by the community.

5b. The Commission also feels the architecture and engineering work being contracted for at this time is needed and would contribute to an expanded project once those ideas are explored.

6 ANC1D feels the residents of Ward 1 deserve more than a gently restored branch library. The Commission sees great promise in this renovation and in the expanded consideration of the entire service area of this branch.

7. ANC1D asks that due consideration be given to the unanimous resolution of the All-Ways Mt Pleasant Neighbors Association, which reads:

1] A modest rehab will not empower the branch library to engage with the many potential partners across the ward.

2] A modest rehab might well disqualify us for a half century from getting the kinds of building changes that we strongly need, for example:

a) More and more flexible space, especially providing diversity and adaptability impossible in the old conception of grand reading rooms that require highly constrained behavior by isolated individuals;

b) A mechanical and technology module that can be cheaply upgraded as we go through major technological revolutions in energy and information systems;

c) An openness to the world and neighborhood, that while preserving the current grand entrance, also invites all to enter at the ground floor, without a sense of stigma for seniors, toddlers, and the handicapped;

d) An opportunity to expand the space, or to better use the land nearby for future needs and revenue streams.

3] A modest rehab would preserve a conception of libraries that arose in the late 19th Century, and is increasingly at odds with the rapidly changing and broadening needs for the 21st.

20080318-16 DC Public Libraries should alert ANCs, including 1D, on planned changes in service, and allow response

Resolved, ANC 1D advises the DC Public Library System and Board to provide early and continuing information on plans for changes in the Mt Pleasant Branch Library. This is a legal responsibility of DCPL for all ANCs.

1. Specifically ANC1D reminds DCPL that this Commission has a legally required role to play, so that it can consider and comment on the renovation of our branch library prior to action being taken by the District government.

2. Therefore, prior to development of construction documents; prior to closure of the branch library facility; prior to selection of an interim facility; and prior to the altering of library hours, the Commission requests notice and great weight consideration by the administration of the Library System.

Why:

1 This is the role set out in the DC Charter for ANCs, and has been reinforced by numerous further legislation and court decisions, including some recent ones with DCPL as a party.

2 The Public Library provides a fundamental service to our residents and it is imperative that their voices be sought as changes are proposed.

Passed by 4 to 1 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on April 20, 2010, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Edwards, Scott, Bosserman, McKay. Voting "no": Commissioner Lepanto.

Appendix W-3 ANC 1A resolution on the Mount Pleasant Library

Whereas, the District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) has proposed a major redevelopment to the only library located in Ward 1, located on the western boundary of ANC 1A, along 16th Street.

Whereas, the proposed design consists of the addition of large structures to the existing facility, and will account for much or most of the available budget for this project.

Whereas, the costs of these additions to the facility will mean that there may not be sufficient funds in the capital budget to fund the project and meet the needs of ANC 1A residents.

Whereas, the large rear additions to the facility add little functional space for library operations, and proposed design will block a current fire access lane to a neighboring high-density apartment building, thus endangering those residents.

Whereas, the proposed main entrance is reached by large west-facing ramp, which winds around the facility and is well over one hundred feet in length, presenting a daunting barrier to seniors, handicapped, toddlers, and others.

Whereas, this large ramp blocks possible access by fire ladder trucks to a dozen large buildings with over a thousand residents, buildings whose structural features are similar to the recent Deauville fire.

Whereas, ANCs 1C and 1D have commissioned reports from experts that corroborate most of the above concerns,

Therefore, ANC 1A resolves to advise the Mayor, the Council, DCPL and its Board to address the concerns raised by independently-commissioned reports, in addition to responding to previous resolutions passed by ANCs 1C and 1D.

Appendix W-4 ANC 1C Resolutions on the Mount Pleasant Library

Source: ANC1C website. www.anc1c.org

In reverse chronological order.

2010 05 05 - Presentation of Report Commissioned by ANC1C on the Mount Pleasant Library

Mr. Nichols presented his report, which can be found on the ANC 1C web site. He summarized the report and answered questions from the commission and audience.

Commissioner Shia made a motion that ANC 1C adopt and transmit the Report on the Mount Pleasant Library Renovation Project to the City Council and DCPL. It was seconded and discussed:

Motion is made to accept Mr. Nichol's expert Report on the Mount Pleasant Library Renovation Project, and;

Further Moved to: Authorize the Chair of ANC 1C to send correspondence to share the information of the Nichol's Report on the Mount Pleasant Library Renovation with DCPL, the Board of Library Trustees, the Mayor, Councilmember Thomas and Councilmember Graham and FEMS and any other appropriate agency and;

Further Moved that: ANC 1C recommend that the objections raised in the Nichol's Report be abated by DCPL and/or be subject to Council action.

It was passed by a voice vote.

2010 01 06 - ANC 1C Motion on Mount Pleasant Library

Move that ANC1c allows the Public Services and Environment Committee to spend up to \$3,000 of ANC 1c discretionary funds to conduct an independent technical study and/or legal review of the proposed plans of the Mt. Pleasant Library renovation and expansion.

2009 09 02 - Resolution Regarding the Mount Pleasant Library Project

Commissioner Otten offered a resolution about fire-safety procedures and accessibility in the redesign of the Mount Pleasant Library. The resolution was seconded, discussed and approved by voice vote:

Resolution Regarding the Mount Pleasant Library Project

Whereas, the D.C. Public Library (DCPL) is planning to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library with a budgeted cost of more than \$10 million; and

Whereas, the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC1C) passed a resolution February 2009 seeking better engagement between DCPL and the public regarding this important community project; and

Whereas, DCPL has redesigned their plans and presented more fully developed images to the public on June 3, 2009; and

Whereas, Ward One residents expressed both support for the changes, but also serious concerns about some elements of this redesign at the meeting and since that meeting; and

Whereas, concerns raised by Ward One residents include fire safety and fire official access to thousands of Ward One residents living in the corridor of apartments adjacent and to the rear of the proposed library expansion; and

Whereas, the new proposed disabled access ramp leading into the rear of the building coming up along the northwest side of the library is more than twice as long and three times the incline as the current access ramp into the front of the building; and

Whereas, DCPL has not seriously engaged the D.C. Fire Department officials, nor any Ward One disabled/senior service agencies as of the date of this resolution to discern if these concerns have merit and adjust the plans to address them.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC1C):

Declares that fire safety and welcoming access to the library must be made a priority to help shape the Mount Pleasant Library plans going forward; and Requests that DCPL enjoin in collaborative public meetings with D.C. Fire officials, Ward One seniors and disabled residents and associated service agencies, ADA compliance officials, and the greater Ward One community to address fire safety and library access concerns as soon as possible; and Requests DCPL, the Board of Library Trustees, and the D.C. Council Committee on Libraries halt the Mount Pleasant Library design process and halt any construction plans until such collaboration between DCPL and Ward One is established.

2009 02 04 – untitled, 1 of 2.

Whereas the Mount Pleasant Library is the only D.C. Public Library in Ward One, and
Whereas, the Mount Pleasant Library serves the constituents of ANC1C; and
Whereas the Mount Pleasant Library is planned to be closed relatively soon for renovations; and
Whereas the District of Columbia is seeking to expand both physical space and library programming for Ward One residents; and
Whereas, the cost of this renovation will exceed \$7.5 million taxpayer dollars; and
Whereas, D.C. Public Libraries has not approached or communicated with ANC1C regarding the plans to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library; and
Whereas the government of the District of Columbia is required to give great weight to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.
Now therefore be it resolved that the Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC1C) receive from the D.C. Public Library leadership and the Board of Library Trustees timely information on the progress of the renovation and expansion of the Mount Pleasant Public Library; and
Be it further resolved that this timely information include but not be limited to: A transparent and open oversight of the library project; regular substantive consultation with Ward One Neighborhood Commissions including timely and

specific responses to correspondence from all Ward One Advisory Neighborhood Commissions; regular updates to the D.C. Public Library Website (HYPERLINK "<http://www.dclibrary.org>"www.dclibrary.org) of current library design plans, line-item budgets, construction progress, including permit requests and grant thereof; and Be it further resolved that this information further include: a 30-day notice in writing to ANC1C of anticipated changes or updates in library design plans, associated construction permits, and planned dates of heavy construction. Be it further resolved that D.C. Public Library commits to having an official representative at the March 4, 2009 regularly scheduled ANC1C meeting.

2009 02 04 – untitled, 2 of 2.

Commissioner Shia made a motion that ANC 1C initiate an ad hoc Ward One DCPL community watchdog committee, and reach out to other Ward One ANCs, Ward One organizations to participate on this committee. It was seconded, discussed and passed by voice vote.

Appendix W-5 § 1-309.10. Advisory Neighborhood Commissions –

Duties and responsibilities; notice; great weight; access to documents;

(a) Each Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("Commission") may advise the Council of the District of Columbia, the Mayor and each executive agency, and all independent agencies, boards and commissions of the government of the District of Columbia with respect to all proposed matters of District government policy including, but not limited to, decisions regarding planning, streets, recreation, social services programs, education, health, safety, budget, and sanitation which affect that Commission area.

For the purposes of this part, proposed actions of District government policy shall be the same as those for which prior notice of proposed rulemaking is required pursuant to § 2-505(a) or as pertains to the Council of the District of Columbia.

(b) Thirty days written notice, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays of such District government actions or proposed actions, including (1) the intent to acquire an interest in real property, either through purchase or lease or (2) the intent to change the use of property owned or leased by or on behalf of the government, shall be given by first-class mail to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, each affected Commission, the Commissioner representing a single-member district affected by said actions, and to each affected Ward Councilmember, except where shorter notice on good cause made and published with the notice may be provided or in the case of an emergency and such notice shall be published in the District of Columbia Register.

In cases in which the 30-day written notice requirement is not satisfied, notification of such proposed government action or actions to the Commissioner representing the affected single-member district shall be made by mail. The Register shall be made available, without cost, to each Commission. A central record of all such notices shall be held by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

(c)(1) Proposed District government actions covered by this part shall include, but shall not be limited to, actions of the Council of the District of Columbia, the executive branch, or independent agencies, boards, and commissions. In addition to those notices required in subsection (a) of this section, each agency, board and commission shall, before the award of any grant funds to a citizen organization or group, before the transmission to the Council of a proposed revenue bond issuance, or before the formulation of any final policy decision or guideline with respect to grant applications, comprehensive plans, requested or proposed zoning changes, variances, public improvements, licenses, or permits affecting said Commission area, the District budget and city goals and priorities, proposed changes in District government service delivery, and the opening of any proposed facility systems, provide to each affected Commission notice of the proposed action as required by subsection (b) of this section. Each District of Columbia government entity shall maintain a record of the notices sent to each Commission pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

[Section 2/ABC Board/ omitted for this printing]

(3) The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs shall ensure that each Advisory Neighborhood Commission is provided at least twice a month by first-class mail with a current list of applications for construction and demolition permits within the boundaries of that Advisory Neighborhood Commission. All notices shall also be provided to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. Each Commission and the affected ward Councilmember shall also be provided at least twice a month with a current list of applications for public space permits.

(d)(1) Each Commission so notified pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section of the

proposed District government action or actions shall consider each such action or actions in a meeting with notice given in accordance with § 1-309.11(c) which is open to the public in accordance with 1-309.11(g). The recommendations of the Commission, if any, shall be in writing and articulate the basis for its decision.

(2) At the close of business of the day after which the notice period concludes as provided in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, the affected District government entity may proceed to make its decision.

(3)(A) The issues and concerns raised in the recommendations of the Commission shall be given great weight during the deliberations by the government entity. Great weight requires acknowledgement of the Commission as the source of the recommendations and explicit reference to each of the Commission's issues and concerns.

(B) In all cases the government entity is required to articulate its decision in writing. The written rationale of the decision shall articulate with particularity and precision the reasons why the Commission does or does not offer persuasive advice under the circumstances. In so doing, the government entity must articulate specific findings and conclusions with respect to each issue and concern raised by the Commission. Further, the government entity is required to support its position on the record.

(C) The government entity shall promptly send to the Commission and the respective ward Councilmember a copy of its written decision.

(4) Oral testimony shall be followed as if provided in advance in writing as required by paragraph (1) of this subsection when accompanied within 7 days by written documentation approved by the respective Commission, which supports the testimony.

(e) Reserved

(f) Each Commission may present its views to any federal or District agency.

(g) The Commission shall not have the power to initiate a legal action in the courts of the District of Columbia or in the federal courts, provided that this limitation does not apply to or prohibit any Commissioner from bringing suit as a citizen.

(h)(1) Each Commission may initiate its own proposal for District government action. The District government entity to which the proposal is made shall acknowledge the proposal in writing to the initiating Commission within 10 days of receipt of the proposal and shall issue a status report to the initiating Commission within 60 days of receipt.

(2) Any Commission may hold public hearings on requested or proposed government actions. Commissions may invite public witnesses from any executive or independent entity to testify before the Commission. Within 45 days of the close of the public hearing, the Commission may submit to the Council a report detailing the Commission's findings and recommendations to be included in any public record of the proposed government action.

(i)(1) Each Commission shall have access to District government officials and to all District government official documents and public data pursuant to § 2-531 et seq. that are material to the exercise of its development of recommendations to the District government.

(2) The Mayor shall provide to all Commissions, at no cost, current zoning and alcohol beverage control regulations, and any other regulations requested in writing by the respective Commission not available electronically, in order for Commissioners to adequately perform their responsibilities.

[section on Annual Reports and Historical and Statutory Notes omitted for this printing]

Appendix X Meetings focused on ANC1d Mount Pleasant Library Issues

01] 2008 03 18 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

2 resolutions passed on MP Library.

1. "DC Public Libraries should alert ANCs, including 1d, on planned changes in service, and allow response"

2. "Advice to DC Public Library Board for a more systematic upgrade, not just a refurbishment, of the Mount Pleasant Branch Library"

02] 2008 07 01 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"ANC1d Asks the DC Council and Mayor to Delay Reconstruction of the Mount Pleasant Library and Insist on Local Engagement"

03] 2008 07 23 (we) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"Delay closing Mt Pleasant Branch Library until funds are available for a local temporary facility"

04] 2008 08 12 (tu) ANC1d Special meeting.

Topics: Library and ABC.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"ANC1d advises DCPL to delay closing the MtP Branch Library until it follows the law on engagement"

05] 2008 09 02 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"DCPL should engage in serious discourse with MtP & ANC1d"

06] 2008 11 11 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

2 resolutions passed on MP Library.

3. "An honest public participation program for the future of the Mount Pleasant Branch Library."

4. "Presentation to the Library Board."

07] 2008 11 19 (we) 1c & 1d Commissioners w/DCPL.

Commissioners Gregg Edwards and Chris Otten met with the DCPL Board at MLK Library. ANC1c and 1d Resolutions were presented. The proposition was stated and confirmed by Historic Mount Pleasant President Faye Armstrong that the staff's proposed design is unacceptable to rare unanimity of Mount Pleasant organizations, including 5 civic associations and the ANC.

08] 2008 12 02 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"Freeze on the Ice Cube blockage by DCPL"

09] 2009 02 17 (tu) ANC 1d meeting.

Agreement on an Informal Meeting on MP Library as stated topic.

Stated topic: MP Library, to be held at the Library on 2009 03 03.

Changed later to 2009 03 17 at La Casa.

10] 2009 03 17 (tu) 1900 ANC meeting. w CM Graham

La Casa 3166 MP Street NW.

Councilmember Jim Graham facilitated the meeting. Large turnout.

ANC-1d hosted a meeting to formulate a resolution bearing the weight of the community in regard to the Mount Pleasant Library project.

This follows on the heels of the March 3, 2009 meeting which brought about pledges of

collaboration with DCPL. In attendance were DCPL staff including, Archie Williams - DCPL Intergovernmental Liaison, Chris Wright - Construction Manager, and Joi Mecks - Marketing Director.

The Mayor's Office of Community Outreach Services were there as well represented by Yaiza Burrell and Rachel Kanter.

4 point resolution passed on MP Library.

"Resolved, that ANC1d will work with Council Member Graham to present the concerns of the Mt. Pleasant and Greater Ward 1 Communities to the Library Board of Trustees and entreat them to come to the March 26, 2009 meeting to discuss with great forthrightness and earnestness, the following:"

1. To abandon any consideration of expansion or additions to the existing Mt. Pleasant Library, except possibly to accommodate mechanical upgrades.

2. To restore and renovate the library within the existing walls

3. To examine the question of where else in Ward 1 library services are needed and might be located;

4. To consider alternative design concepts that might meet the needs of Ward 1.

It is the intent of the Commission that points 1 & 2 occur simultaneously with points 3 & 4.

This 1d resolution was approved unanimously in response to the vote of a meeting of over 50 Ward 1 residents in attendance.

11] 2009 03 23 (mo) ANC1d Commercial Corridor.

Topic: Mount Pleasant Library and alternative location on MP Street.

The unanimous sentiment of this large meeting was that the designs and programs submitted by DCPL are lopsided, and do not meet the programmatic needs of the neighborhood.

12] 2009 04 21 (tu) ANC1d meeting

Resolution Passed: "Mount Pleasant Library"

This resolution is essentially the same content as that of 2009 0317. The Library Board did not respond except to not bother to discuss it seriously. Now, the last chance is upon us to ask the DC

government to intervener:

ANC1D asks Councilmember Graham and the Committee on Public Libraries, Parks and Recreation - Mayor Fenty, DCPL and its Board, to follow the recommendations that emerged from a series of ward-wide meetings on next steps in providing library services:

13] 2009 05 04 (mo) ANC1d & CM Graham, Fire Chief Held at the MP Library.

Large turnout of community. Over 100 people. ANC1d Commissioners McKay, Bosserman, Edwards, Lepanto. CM Jim Graham, DC Public Library, Fire Chief Rubin and EMS Staff, Mayor's Office.

The international fire code appendix recommends 20' of clearance for ladder trucks. Chief Rubin acknowledged this need.

However, on 2009 06 03 DCPL went ahead with their plans, irregardless of the fire-safety issues.

14] 2009 06 16 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"Library Design Tweaks For Fire Safety"

15] 2009 07 21 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Resolution passed on MP Library.

"Reform the Mount Pleasant Library plan"

16] 2009 09 15 (tu) ANC1d meeting.

Agreement to have MP Library as one of stated topics 20091006.

Additional meeting

2009 06 03 Meeting on the MtP Library. Facilitated by CM Jim Graham.

A majority of 1D Commissioners were present.

A majority of residents and commissioners

present voted against DCPL's proposal.

However, with the large contingent of DCPL staff voting unanimously for the design, the total number of votes were slightly in favor of the design.

Appendix Y: Civic Responses to DCPL & the Mount Pleasant Library Case, A Partial List

On March 17, 2009 at an ANC1D meeting, with over 50 residents, including representatives from all the neighborhood civics, Councilmember Graham noted that this was a "historic moment in Mount Pleasant where the community was galvanized around a single issue – the Mt. Pleasant Library." These are a snapshot of some of the correspondence & press in the last 2 and a half years.

1. 2009 0205 Joint Civic letter to Director Cooper, DCPL

Four civics asking for attention on serious concerns about DCPL renovation plans.

* Historic Mount Pleasant

* Mount Pleasant Main Street

* Hear Mount Pleasant

* Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance

2 2009 02 18 Mt Pl Condominium Association and Fire Escape Egress

Letter from lawyer Martin P. Sullivan on the impacts of the proposed addition.

3. 2009 0310 MPNA Draft Survey Results, MP Library Renovation Survey

Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance (MPNA). To help the MPNA determine its position, we created the following survey to gather input from members and other interested community members. Here are the results collected between February 21 - March 10, 2009.

4. 2009 0503 To the Commission on Fine Arts from Park Marconi Residents

Opposition to the Proposed Addition and Demolition of the Sunroom

Request for Additional Services throughout the Ward

Opposition to the Ramp and Additional Structures which will likely become nuisances.

5. 2009 05 – 2009 06 Scheme G – Community Input Dismissed by DCPL

CM Graham Helped Get Consensus on Scheme G; DCPL Dismisses. Scheme G preserves the possibility of a Fire Access Lane which would enable rescue by Ladder Truck.

6. 2009 0609 To the Commission on Fine Arts, from All-Ways Mt Pl Board.

On Safety and Usability of the Mt Pleasant Branch Library. Preserve the possibility of a fire access lane for 1000 at-risk residents. Prevent a daunting and unwelcome ramp to the rear.

AMP is an incorporated public benefit corporation which for 35 years has, in various forms, served the roughly 80% of the population in MtP who rent or live in apartment buildings.

7. 2009 09 News in Ward 8: Dissatisfaction with DCPL

DCPL Prepares for Demolition Community Members Continue to Demand Engagement

8. 2009 0924 Sarah's Circle – A local senior's group – opposes DCPL's plan.

Our low income seniors with mobility challenges are opposed to long and elevated ramp.

A long inconvenient and perhaps dangerous trek to the rear of the building also painfully echoes days of racial discrimination and segregation. Don't drag us back to that old hell!

9. 2009 10 Harvard Towers Resident Council

This longer and steeper ramp will make it harder for our residents to use the library and also pushes them to enter the rear of the building, raising all sorts of ethical questions.

If DCPL did engage us, we could have collaboratively worked with them to find a better solution.

10. 2009 10 16 Equal Rights Center on the Library Accessible Entrance.

The ERC is a comprehensive civil rights organization in the nation dedicated furthering the advancement of equal access and opportunity in housing, employments, and places of public accommodations. The ERC does not support a renovation plan which decreases access and forces people with disabilities to enter through the back like second class citizens.

11. 2009 10 25 Resolutions, All-Ways Mt Pl Neighbors Association Inc.

Compilation of 13 resolutions, 5 pages, 12 years of correspondence and long term (& unanswered) engagement with DCPL since DCPL Future of the Libraries meeting in 2002.

12. 2010 01 11 Historic Mt Pleasant Testimony to CM Thomas Roundtable

On Library Capital Contracts and Community Engagement Activities

We remain disappointed with the result. We do not believe the broader issues concerning the renovation of the Mt Pleasant Branch Library have received the attention they deserve.

13. 2010 01 11 All-Ways Mt Pl Testimony to CM Thomas Roundtable

DCPL has not been a transparent, responsible, law-abiding, or honest agency. Its director has had similar problems previously. It is a rogue, and its products need serious attention before the council approves them.

14. 2010 02 20 CM Graham, W1 ANCs, civics & businesses to Mayor Fenty

An appeal from an unified Mount Pleasant on Proposed Mount Pleasant Library Renovations on use of available space, aesthetic appearance, public safety and access/egress from adjoining buildings, and efficient use of tax dollars.

From Historic Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant Main Street, Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance, Mount Pleasant Condominium Association, ANC 1C04, ANC 1D03, & ANC1D04 Commissioners, Councilmember Ward 1, adjacent property owners and business.

15. 2010 02 25 All-Ways Mt Pl Testimony on DCPL Performance Oversight

This committee heard Ginnie Cooper say her only regret is not being clear that the library had no intent to consult with the public. Please do not allow such dishonest behavior to hurt, curtail, or even threaten the lives of many thousands of our neighbors.

16. 2010 02 25 Local Learning Nodes, Child, Youth, & Adult.

In addition to the many civic groups in Mt Pleasant, here is a draft list to illustrate this area is densely packed with educational entities within extended walking distance of the Library.

17. 2010 03 02 Kalorama Citizens Association to Director Cooper, DCPL

DCPL has not given serious consideration to fire safety issues that could be improved in the area of the Mount Pleasant Library by allowing access through their lot. KCA objects to the discontinuance of the front access and front ramp, and the construction of a 100' rear ramp.

KCA requests that DCPL, in light of many civic groups' concerns, (1) hold in abeyance the permit process, (2) begin a new round of community engagement with a needs assessment.

18. 2010 0409 Superintendent of Majestic Apts on proposed structure.

Elliott Sampson has 20 years experience maintaining the grounds across the street from the Library and working with local volunteers of the 1600 block of Lamont for a clean and safe street. He attests that the library already has a serious uncontrolled problem with crime and vagrancy. The type of proposed structure with a park like section, he predicts, is out of touch with the persistent realities of the neighborhood and will only cause more nuisances.

19. 2010 0415 Remarks of neighbors near the Mount Pleasant Library.

Don't let the Mount Pleasant Library fall prey to a pretentious makeover. The DCPL Public Involvement Process has served DCPL as their public relations steam-roller, not as an authentic engagement with the community, which we need. That's why we participated!

20. 2010 0416 Support for a Fire Lane by Neighbors of the Library

Petition signatures of residential neighbors of the Mount Pleasant Library.

Sample page of a petition with nearly 700 signatures.

21. 2010 05 03 ANC1d Gregg Edwards Committee on Libraries, DC Council

Testimony before Councilmember Thomas, DC Council. For the DCPL budget, please include funds and a directive to address 1D's recommendations for a needs assessment and for a redesign that does not endanger hundreds of lives by blocking potential emergency access, that does not harass seniors, toddlers, and the handicapped and risk millions in ADA judgments; consider better ways of using the MtP current capital budget to more effectively address our neighbors' needs.

22. 2011 0121 The 3145 Mt Pleasant Street Tenants' Association Narrative

Statement of Yasmin Romero-Castillo, President of the former Deauville Tenants Association, and current ANC 1D Commissioner. The Deauville Apartments burned down in March 2008, and 200 families were displaced. Appeal for a fire access lane; apply the lessons of the Deauville, the recent deaths at the Sarbin, and the difficulties of dealing with another recent fire at the Park Marconi.

23. 2011 0125 Stop Work Request, Park Marconi Residents Association.

The Park Marconi is located at 3150 16th Street NW and most affected by proposed additions. Mount Pleasant Library immediate neighbor to the east and south.

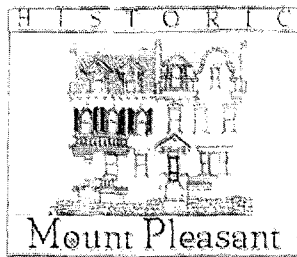
24. 2011 0208 Sworn Affidavit, President, Adalante Mt Pl Cooperative

3149 Mt Pl Street, immediate neighbor to the Deauville which burned down in 2008 in an 8 alarm fire. Objection to Library plans as it forever forecloses the chance for a fire access corridor that could save residents of their building. The addition will also block air & light to their building.

25. 2011 0209 Letter to DC Attorney General; claim against DC Government.

From Chris Otten, Lead claimant, W1 resident, ANC Cmsr-SMD 1C02 (2009-2010), Community Organizer-W1 Library Coalition, with affidavits from Officers of 3 nearby building associations.

1. Mrs. Rosa Rivas, 3149 Mount Pleasant Street, WDC, 20010
2. Mrs. Yasmin Romero, 3145 Mount Pleasant Street, 20010
3. Mrs. Evelyn Brewster, 3150 16th Street NW, 20010



February 5, 2009

VIA E-MAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Ms. Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian
D.C. Public Library
901 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Re: Mount Pleasant Branch Library Renovation

Dear Ms. Cooper:

As organizations deeply committed to the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, we are writing to request an urgent meeting with you to discuss the proposed renovation and expansion of the Mount Pleasant Branch Library. In addition to its importance to Mount Pleasant, this structure is a center of community life for neighboring communities that do not have libraries of their own. Like your agency, we are anxious to see the library restored and updated to serve the communities of Ward One. However, we believe that further public dialogue and consultation is necessary to meaningfully inform the design process.

The library is the most significant architectural structure in Mount Pleasant and was identified as such in the 1985 application to designate our neighborhood as a historic district under D.C. law. The application noted that although the library had been "[p]lagued throughout the years by inadequate staffing and funding," it had not fallen "prey to serious remodeling and retains its original design and details." As DCPL's plans have become clearer, strong opposition has emerged within the neighborhood to the principal new element being proposed – an addition on Lamont Street that many find objectionable from aesthetic, historic and functional perspectives. A few specific points illustrate our serious concerns about the proposed design:

- A guiding principle in historic districts is to place building additions at the rear, where there is little or no visibility from the street. A clear opportunity exists to do that in this case, but the architects propose instead to place it on the street, significantly altering the overall appearance of the building.
- The proposed two-story glass addition appears to have been formulated without consideration for the larger surrounding neighborhood. Additions to historic structures should be deferential in impact to the original building. The proposed glass box draws the eye away from the original façade and detracts from the original building. Given its location on a narrow residential street, it would serve at night as an intrusive bright light into the windows of the low-rise residential buildings nearby.

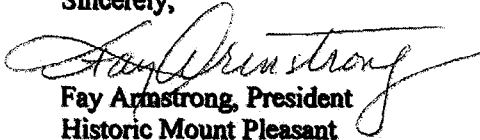
- Proposed changes to the front entrance would make building access more rather than less difficult than it is today for individuals not able to climb the steep front stairs. In place of the current accessible entrance that many use for its convenience, the architects propose 155 feet of switchback ramps to allow individuals in wheelchairs or with strollers to get up to the existing front door. Better alternatives are surely available in a project this size.
- The material proposed for the side of the ramp, COR-TEN steel, is not compatible with the limestone façade of the original building and is not appropriate for such prominent use in a historic district. Moreover, the ramp and related berm would further alter the symmetry and balance of the architectural design of the building.

Historic Mount Pleasant (HMP) had planned to address design concerns – which generally relate to the exterior of buildings in the historic district – in the ordinary course of business with the Historic Preservation Office and Review Board. However, after finally having had the opportunity to meet with the architects and the DCPL project manager last week, it became clear that the exterior design has been largely driven by the use requirements (the “program”) laid out by DCPL. Accordingly, we believe the design issues cannot be successfully resolved without considering at the same time how the internal space is being used.

The identification of resources to make long overdue repairs and improvements to the library presents an important opportunity for everyone who cares about the library and how it relates to our communities to be heard. According to your agency’s website, DCPL held three sparsely-attended “community” meetings last year: 14 community members attended a meeting in March; 19 attended a meeting in June; and 25 attended a meeting in October. At the October meeting, the President of HMP provided DCPL project managers with her card and asked to meet with them and their architects to discuss the design. However, it was not until last week that this meeting occurred. The architects acknowledged that at the time of the October “community” meeting, virtually all of their design work was completed. So, as far as we know, the proposed design reflects no meaningful consultation within our neighborhood about the significant changes to the library under consideration.

We ask you to meet with us at your earliest convenience to discuss these issues. Please contact HMP President Fay Armstrong at either 202-387-2734 or 202-375-3739 or via e:mail at farmstrong@verizon.net.

Sincerely,


Fay Armstrong, President
Historic Mount Pleasant


Adam Hoey, President
Mount Pleasant Main Street


Laurie Collins, President
Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance


Phil Lepanto, Steering Committee Member
Hear Mount Pleasant
and ANC Commissioner for ANC1D-01

Cc: Councilmember Jim Graham
Sarah Latterner—Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services

THE LAW OFFICE OF
MARTIN P. SULLIVAN
7910 WOODMONT AVENUE, SUITE 1350
BETHESDA, MD 20814
240-752-6130

Via E-Mail

February 18, 2009

The Mount Pleasant Condominium Association
Attn: Sean Gannon, President
3155 Mount Pleasant Street, N.W., #306
Washington, DC 20010

Re: Fire Escape Egress; 3155 Mount Pleasant Street N.W. (the "Condominium")

Dear Mr. Gannon,

Recently, we discussed the proposed addition to the Mount Pleasant Public Library and the potential impact this addition would have on the Condominium and its residents. Among other things, you are concerned about the loss of your existing fire escape egress, and the impact this would have on building code compliance, as well as on the safety of the Condominium's residents. You stated that the proposed construction would eliminate the current fire escape egress path, and completely enclose the ground area underneath the fire escape.

While I have not researched the matter in detail, I have some thoughts on one possible solution. Judging by the age both of the Condominium building and the fire escape egress path, as well as other apparent factors, the Condominium may have a prescriptive easement or an easement by necessity over the portion of the library property needed by the Condominium residents for fire escape egress. If such an easement does exist, you may have the right to preserve the current fire escape egress path, or if not, to receive compensation from the library (although I would note that this second option does nothing to address either the building code or the safety issue).

I noted, from the October 22nd meeting minutes, the Library's official response to your concerns about the loss of your fire escape egress. It was an interesting response, in that it tends to support your position that the current fire escape egress path must be maintained in order to be in compliance with the D.C. Building Code. At any rate, whether or not your fire escape egress path (presumably in existence for 60 years or more) complies with *today's* version of the D.C. Building Code doesn't really relate to the issue of prescriptive easements and the Library's intention to block off your only available fire escape route.

If you like, I can research this in greater detail and provide you with a full analysis of the Condominium's rights in this matter. Please contact me at your convenience if you wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin P. Sullivan".

Martin P. Sullivan

cc: Greg Nicklas

Mount Pleasant Library Renovation Issues Survey

MPNA Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance Draft Results 2009 03 10.

[Because of space limitations, comments are not presented, only questions and summaries.]

How aware are you of the plans to expand the Mt. Pleasant Library?

Very Aware	42.8 %
Somewhat Aware	46.0 %
Not Aware at All	11.1 %

Do you have any comments or concerns with the process that the DC Public Library system has used to develop the planned design for the library expansion?

Yes, I have concerns	55.5 %
No, I have no concerns	11.1 %
I do not know the process the library used	30.1 %
None of the above	1.5 %
Other	1.5 %

Were you aware of any of the 3 public forums the DC Public Library has conducted?

Yes	31.7 %
No	58.7 %
Other	9.5 %

Do you support the planned uses of the new space?

Yes	20.6 %
Somewhat	23.8 %
Neutral	4.7 %
No	20.6 %
I don't know the planned uses of the new space	26.9 %
Other	1.5 %
No responses	1.5 %

Do you think the library needs a 100-person meeting room?

Yes	39.6 %
Not Sure	25.3 %
Neutral	7.9 %
No	25.3 %
Other	1.5 %

Do you like the proposed design? (please reference proposed changes here:

<http://www.dclibrary.org/dcpl/cwp/view.asp?a=1273&q=569943>)

Yes	17.4 %
Yes, but with some reservation	14.2 %
Neutral	7.9 %
No	50.7 %
Not sure, need more information	9.5 %

Have you seen any alternative designs?

Yes	14.2 %
No	82.5 %
No responses	3.1 %

Do you have concerns with a modern addition being added to a "classic" building?

Yes	55.5 %
Neutral	12.6 %
No	31.7 %

Do you believe the proposed design is appropriate for a historic district?

Yes	26.9 %
Neutral	1.5 %
Not sure, I don't have enough information	15.8 %
No	49.2 %
No responses	6.3 %

Part of the proposed design plan is to eliminate the library's driveway and attack the "glass block" addition from the library connecting to the rear of a residential and commercial building. Do you think it is proper for the library to expand and fully occupy the library's lot, causing the neighboring buildings reduction to air and light as well as blocking the current public safety egress to the building's occupants?

Yes	26.9 %
Neutral	7.9 %
Not sure, I don't have enough information	38 %
No	25.3 %
No responses	1.5 %

What position do you think MPNA should take at this point in the process?

No position	6.4 %
Strong support for the planned design	12.9 %
Moderate support	11.2 %
Moderate opposition (on limited grounds)	17.7 %
Strong opposition (across the board objections)	43.5 %
Other	8.0 %

Information about Survey Respondents

What is your gender?

Female	39.6 %
Male	53.9 %
Prefer Not to Answer	4.7 %
No Responses	1.5 %

Which category described your age?

Younger than 18	0.0 %
18-24	0.0 %
25-34	25.3 %
35-44	23.8 %
45-54	9.5 %
55-64	28.5 %
65 or older	9.5 %
Prefer not to answer	3.1 %

What is your residential status?

Mt. Pleasant – house	69.8 %
Mt. Pleasant – apartment	25.3 %
Non Mt Pleasant	4.7 %

If you live in Mt Pl, how long?

Less than 2 years	12.6 %
2 – 5 years	17.4 %
5 –10 years	17.4 %
10 –15 years	11.1 %
Over 15 years	41.2 %

What best describes your employment status?

Employed full-time	61.9 %
Employed part-time	6.3 %
Self-employed	14.2 %
Not employed, but looking for work	0.0 %
Not employed, not looking for work	0.0 %
Retired	7.9 %
Student	1.5 %
Military	1.5 %
Homemaker	0.0 %
Prefer not to answer	3.1 %
Other	1.5 %
No responses	1.5 %

What category best describes your annual income?

Under \$15,000	3.1 %
\$15,000 – 29,999	1.5 %
\$30,000 – 44,999	7.9 %
\$45,000 – 59,999	6.3 %
\$60,000 – 74,999	14.2 %
\$75,000 – 89,999	7.9 %
\$90,000 or more	36.5 %
Prefer not to answer	22.2 %

[The folks who took the survey are mostly full time employed house-owners earning over \$75,000 a year and have lived in Mount Pleasant more than 10 yrs.]

*3150 16th Street Residents Association, Inc.
Of the
Park Marconi II, LLC*

May 5, 2009

Mr. Frederick J. Lindstrom
Assistant Secretary
U. S. Commission of Fine Arts
401 F Street NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001-2728

Dear Mr. Lindstrom:

The District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL) is planning a renovation and expansion of the Mount Pleasant Library, 3160 -16th Street NW.

Park Marconi, 3150-16th Street NW, SSL 295 0829, has coexisted as a close neighbor to the library for 83 years. The 3150 16th Street Residents Association, Inc. of the Marconi Park II, LLC is opposed to a major portion of the proposed design to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library. We appreciate this opportunity to express our concerns.

The design concept proposed by DCPL and the Henry Myerberg, Architect firm includes the addition of a three-story structure on the rear of the library which will extend to the property line. This expansion would mean the demise of the stunning and delightful sunroom. The sunroom is well designed with lovely rectangular windows that open vertically to the outside allowing sun, light and air into the room. The exterior design was created with care and attention to maintaining the credibility of the original Carnegie design. Additionally, as actual patrons of the Library who use the sunroom, we can attest to the fact the sunroom provides a calm, serene atmosphere for reading and studying. Once inside, patrons easily reconnect with nature's elements.

In attempts to "update" distinguished buildings and for architects to impose their "signature" on existing historic landmarks, spaces like the Mount Pleasant Library's sunroom that give character, personality and charm to an edifice are often sacrificed. Simply stated, we really like and appreciate the sunroom and are stalwartly opposed to its destruction or removal.

3150 16th Street NW Washington, DC 20010
Beatrice Stewart, President * Idalia Guzman, Vice-President * Evelyn Brewster, Secretary
202.265.1343
jbbrew14@gmail.com

We support expansion of the lower level (only) in the rear in order to create the "walkout" space around the sunroom, and to allow DCPL greater flexibility to more efficiently organize the space within the existing walls and to better accommodate mechanicals that particularly detract from an historic site.

DCPL also contends that the expansion and three-story addition are necessary to service more patrons. We believe this reasoning lacks sagacity.

There are an estimated 100,000 residents in Ward 1 – the most densely populated of all the District's Wards – extending North all the way to "S" street, on the East to Warder Street (includes Howard University), on the West to Connecticut Avenue, and South to Spring Street (includes The Woodley Park Apartment Homes – the largest apartment house in the City).

Under the proposed expansion, the Library will be able to service only about one-fifth of the residents or approximately 20,000 patrons. Further, because Mount Pleasant Library is the sole library in the Ward, library resources are sorely needed in areas outside of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood and to residents who live outside of about a one-half mile (walking) radius of the library. Residents in Columbia Heights and Adams Morgan, for example, have strongly indicated their interests in having a library branch or extension services in their neighborhoods.

We recommend that DCPL use a portion of the \$10 million dollar renovation and expansion project to provide services to residents in other parts of Ward 1.

The proposed concept also includes adding a service ramp on the South side of the library. Presently, there exists a four-step stairwell that is used as an emergency entrance/exit that is not visible from the front of the library. While a ramp may, at first blush, appear benign and may well look attractive in the drawings, a service ramp leading to the street will detract from the breathtaking panoramic view of the front of the library and could further service as a necessary nuisance.

In closing, for the above stated reasons, we oppose:

- the destruction or removal of the magnificent and iconic sunroom,
- the addition of a three-story structure on the rear and,
- the addition of the service ramp on the South of the library.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our concerns and recommendations to you. If you have questions or require clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

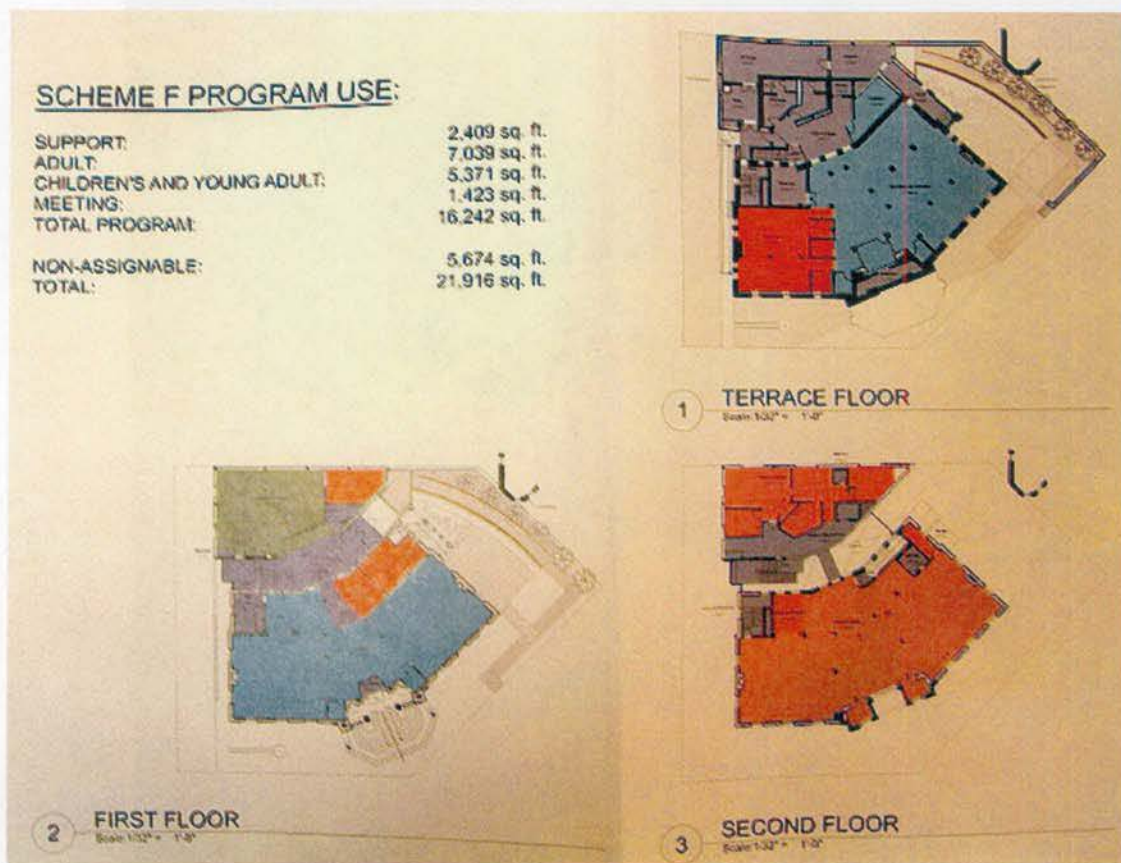
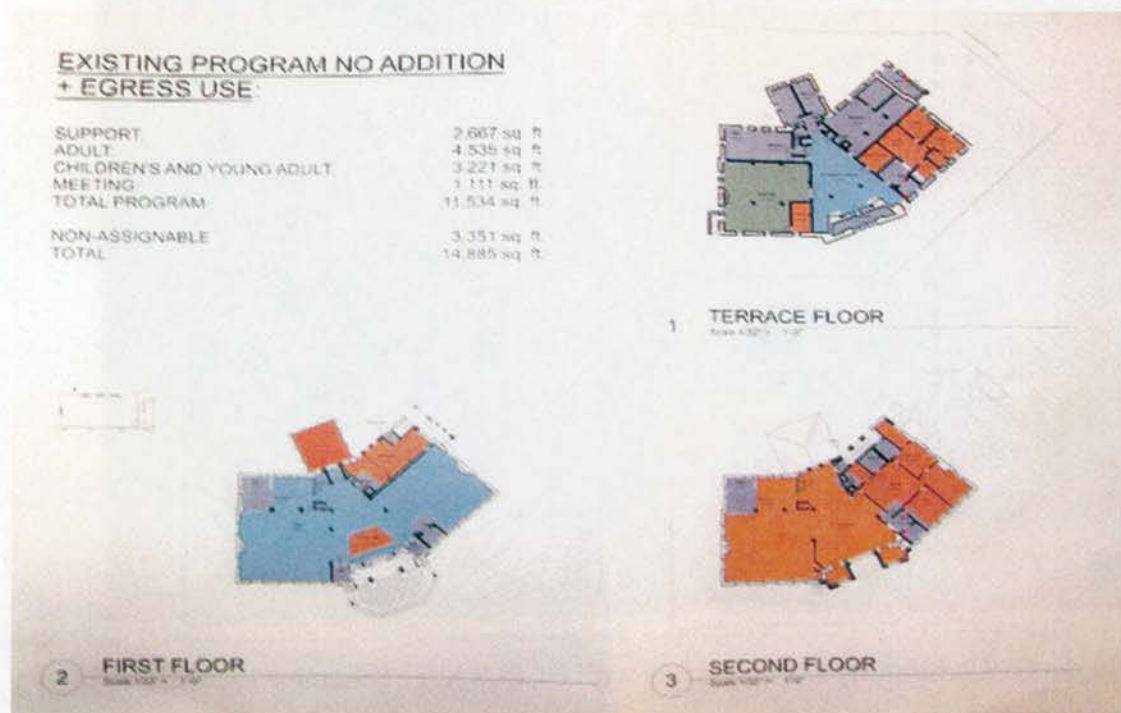
Evelyn Brewster
Secretary

3150 16th Street NW Washington, DC 20010
Beatrice Stewart, President * Idalia Guzman, Vice-President * Evelyn Brewster, Secretary
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jbbrew14@gmail.com

Scheme G

http://www.districtdynamos.org/documents/plans/mtpl/scheme_options/

Three Scheme Discussed by Community -- Late May / Early June 2009
CM Graham Helped Get Consensus on Scheme G; DCPL Dismisses.



SCHEME G PROGRAM USE:

SUPPORT:	2,119 sq. ft.
ADULT:	5,800 sq. ft.
CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT:	3,506 sq. ft.
MEETING:	1,361 sq. ft.
TOTAL PROGRAM:	12,786 sq. ft.
NON-ASSIGNABLE:	3,836 sq. ft.
TOTAL:	16,622 sq. ft.



1 TERRACE FLOOR
Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"

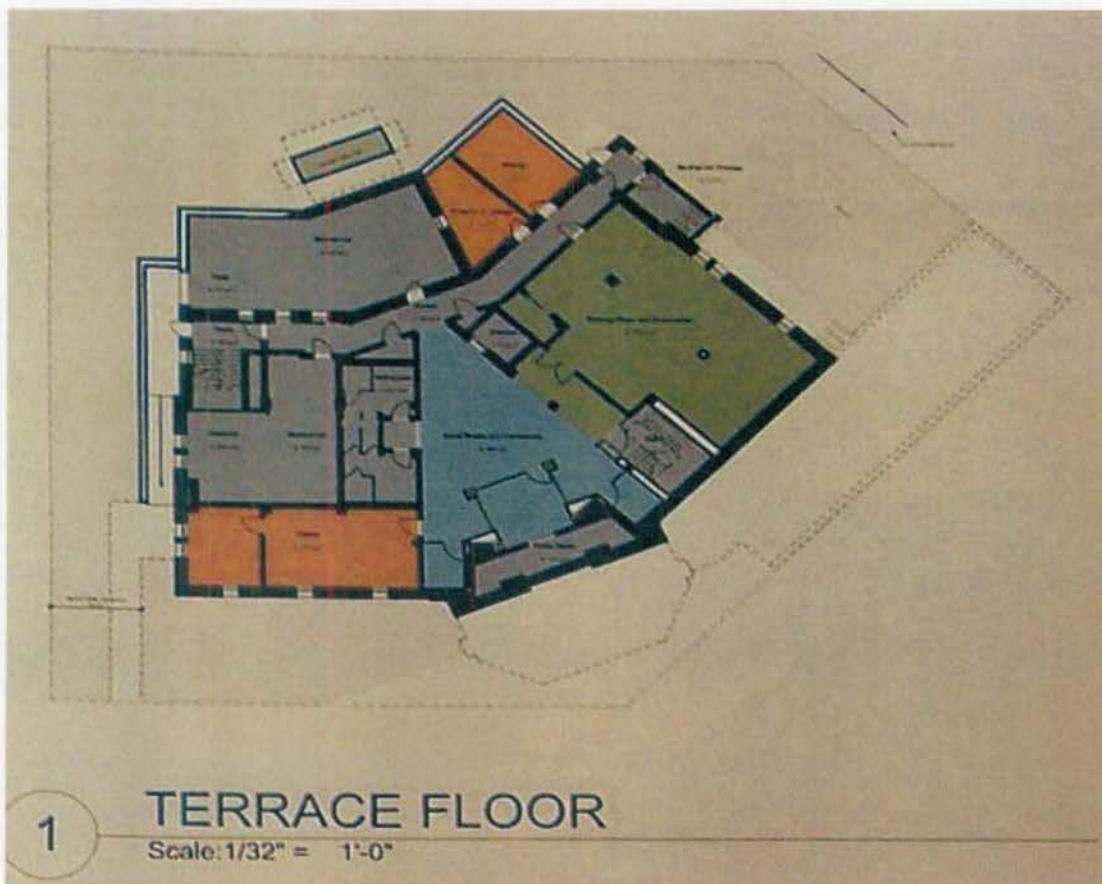


2 FIRST FLOOR
Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"



3 SECOND FLOOR
Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"

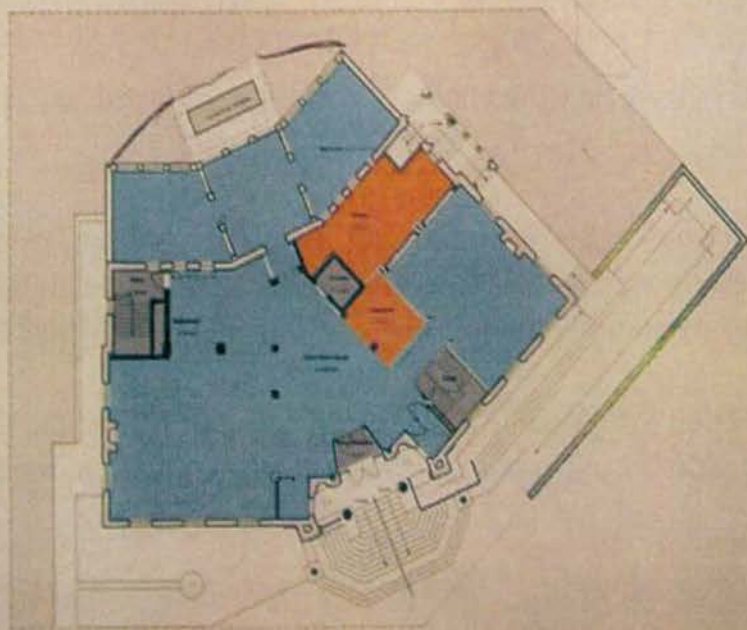
Detail Scheme G: Community's compromise with DCPL's huge Scheme F expansion plans



1

TERRACE FLOOR

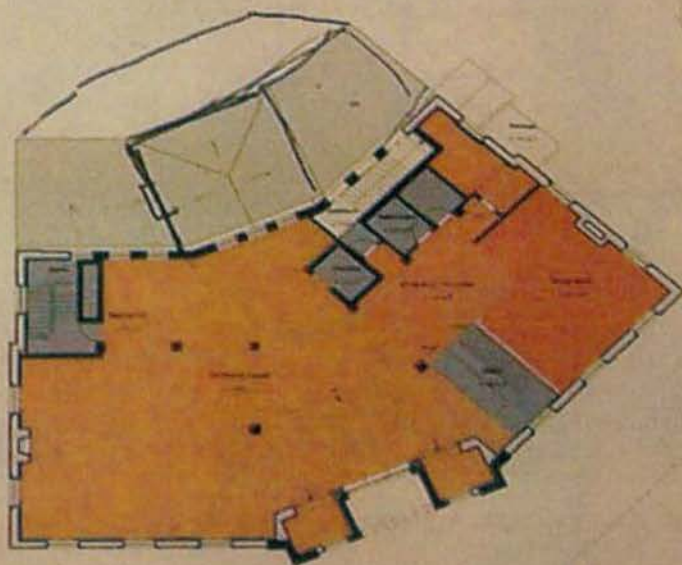
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2

FIRST FLOOR

Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"



3

SECOND FLOOR

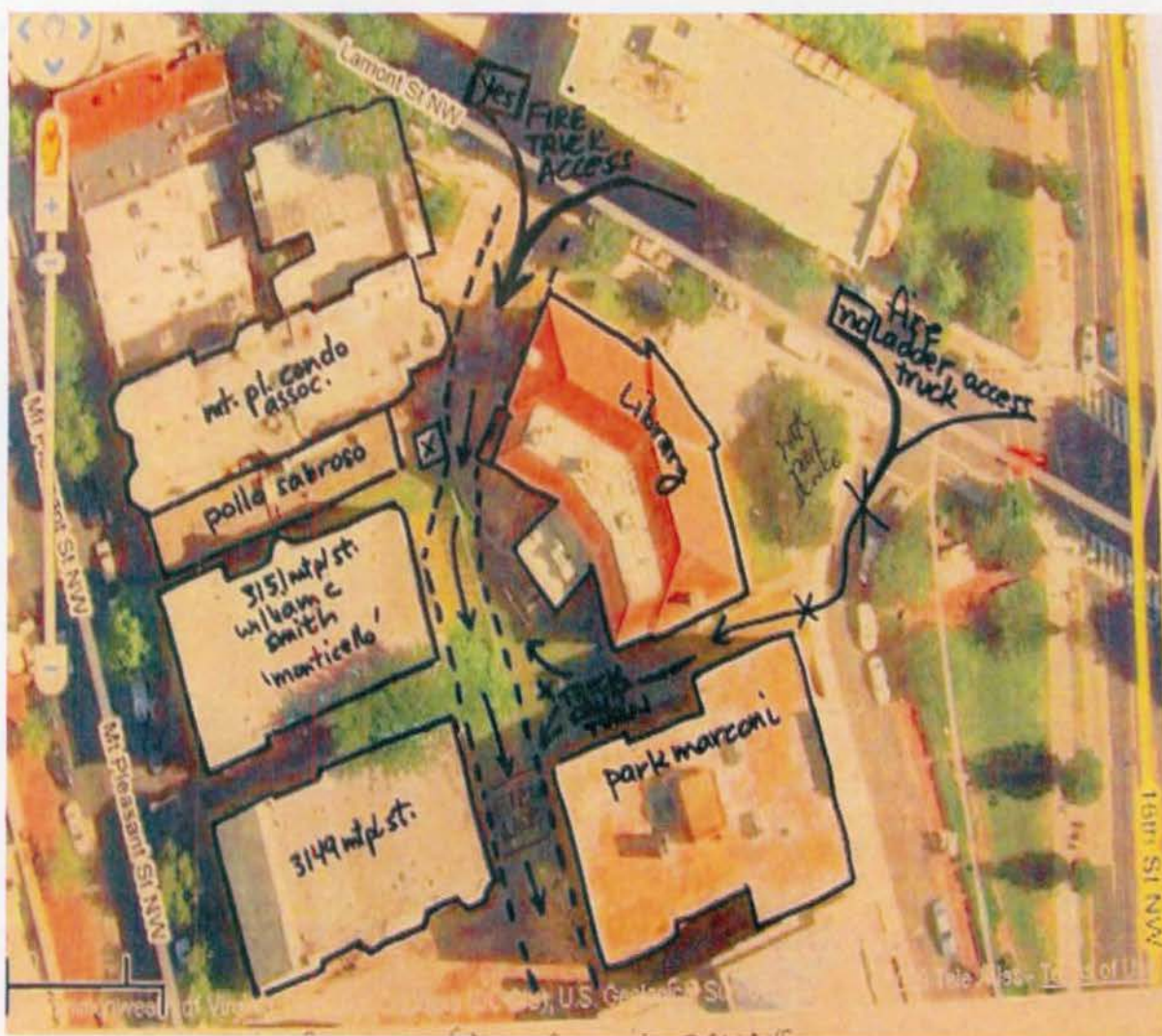
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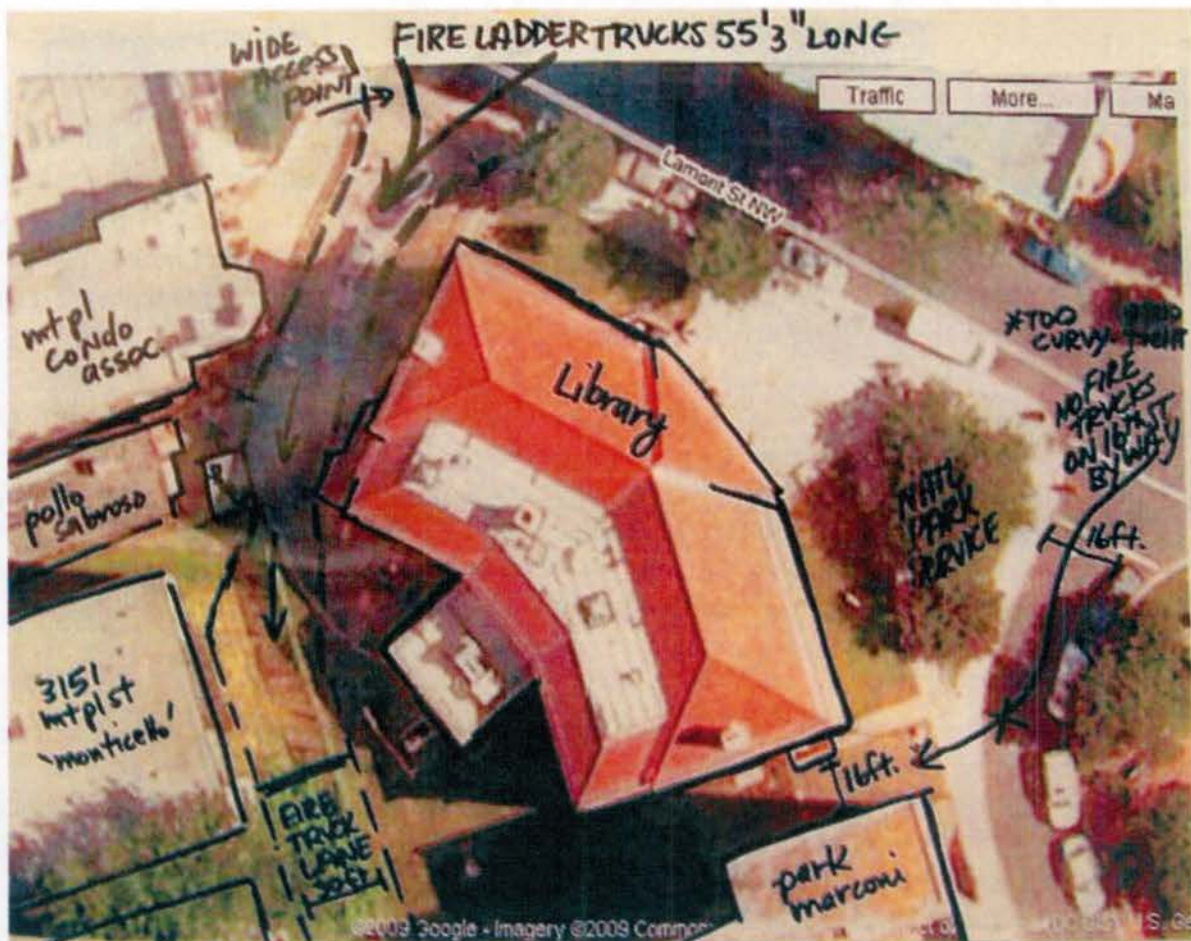
Scheme G allows a widening of fire safety access; It would help a fire truck and safety officials access from Lamont Street in behind the library and all of the apartments lining the Mount Pleasant Corridor.

DCPL's preferred option, Scheme F, blocks any entrance to fire safety officials from Lamont Street.

Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper is putting her "[Building Program](#)" before Family's lives. Her building program was never discussed or developed in collaboration with any Ward One residents and community leaders like ANC's and even CM Jim Graham himself.

Here's some depiction's of possible fire access lane to the rear of the library ~ also showing how Scheme G can provide for this lane without much impact to expansion.





Remaining Concerns and Suggestions:

1. **Fire Safety Access:** DCPL's preferred option, Scheme F, calls for a huge expansion all the way from the current building to the library property line -- pushing the expansion as close as eighteen feet from the surrounding apartment buildings. Scheme F proposes to block the Lamont Street access point to the apartment building corridor between 16th Street and Mount Pleasant Street -- where almost one thousand residents live -- and thus further limit already poor fire access (see the Deauville Fire).

Scheme G, the community's compromise plan, will allow for good-sized expansion, and simultaneously keep the fire safety access point from Lamont Street open. This compromise was formulated with the help of the community and CM Jim Graham in late May but was dismissed by DCPL as not meeting their "Building Program." The building program DCPL refers to was something never developed in collaboration with Ward One library users, residents, and community leaders like ANC's and even CM Graham himself.

Chief Cooper is putting her building program before that of Ward One resident's lives.

2. **Dignified and Welcoming Access:** DCPL's Scheme F expansion plans propose increasing the length and height of the accessibility ramp almost three times the current ramp, plus it would force library users to enter at the rear of the library. Ward One seniors and residents with disabilities are asking for dignified access, looking at keeping the current ramp which is manageable and allows them to enter the front of the building.
3. **Safety and Quality of Life:** DCPL is proposing a small garden at the northwest side of the building adjacent to the proposed accessibility ramp. With DCPL's security budget shrinking, many library goers who have to use the ramp will be subject to possible harassment, robbery, or worse as the garden area provides plenty of places for needy homeless residents and perhaps burglars to hide, sleep, and defecate. Instead we are suggesting that DCPL plan to grade this area and allow for handicapped parking, which doesn't exist at all currently, and to provide the opportunity for fire safety access from Lamont Street to behind the library.
4. **Expanding Ward One Library Services:** Many residents still feel the proposed expansion is simply unnecessary. With almost 3,500 square feet not being used at all or efficiently in the current building, we want to see DCPL look at a more limited expansion and to use the current space more wisely. This will allow for the needed safety access behind the building but we can also use the construction dollars saved to look at building satellite branches in the Ward. The Mount Pleasant Library is the only library serving all of Ward One -- we need more buildings to provide better service to Ward One residents.

To: The Commission on Fine Arts

From: The Board of All-Ways Mt Pleasant Neighbors Association

On: Safety and Usability of the Mt Pleasant Branch Library

AMP is an incorporated public benefit corporation which for over a third of a century has, in various forms, served the roughly 80% of the population in this area who are renters or live in apartment buildings.

Safety

The area around the branch library is dense in older apartment buildings which average five stories in height, and have a history of fires and other emergencies. For example, the Deauville was the residence of over 300 people until a year ago it burnt to the ground as part of an unprecedented eight-alarm fire. It was a little over a hundred feet from the library property on the rear.

In a meeting called in response to the concerns of many of AMP's members about the library design, the Fire Chief and Marshall agreed that the distances between these old, unsprinklered apartment buildings needs to be preserved and access improved. Specifically, a twenty-foot space between the library and the apartment building to the south would allow fire equipment to be quickly positioned.

Similarly, a present thirty-foot wide passage - between the rears of two columns of buildings facing 16th St and Mt Pleasant St - if preserved and only blocked by the current chain link fences, would allow fire-trucks and other emergency vehicles full access to residences of several thousand people.

These emergency access corridors can be maintained if the design of the library is changed to remove external access ramps from the south and west sides, and if the rear addition is pushed back.

A rear addition respectful of the fire safety needs of neighbors need not overly restrict the library providing the targeted additional floor area. By using the space behind the roof line for a fourth floor, not readily visible from the front of the library, perhaps 6000 sqft could be added, if needed.

Of course, AMP has resolved, along with ANC 1D, to shift funds to other parts of ward one currently under- or un-served by DCPL - thereby quadrupling service-rates and reaching many more users for about the same money. And, AMP has resolved, along with ANC1D, to preserve fire safety lanes - now generally agreed to be 20 and 30 feet wide.

Usability

The proposed side ramps are almost ugly. They will be felt as an ugly nuisance because they shift traffic and noise into the private space of many hundreds of residents in the neighboring apartment buildings. The ramps also reduce the value to public space of street activity at a gateway between Columbia Heights and Mt Pleasant. With Marconi Park and a large triangle of land, this traffic and the monumental stairs could serve as an amphitheater for public entertainment, and as seating for a mini-vendor mall.

Displacing traffic to the sides is almost pure damage: It detracts from the badly needed festive gateway as an attractor to the library and local venues. It pulls noise and other nuisances into the area just next to high-density affordable housing units. It detracts from the original design symmetry. Crucially, it endangers the lives of thousands by blocking two emergency access paths.

The side ramps are not needed. The architects early presented as a preferred solution the use of the current terrace level entrance just west of the monumental stairs. This was not used in later designs because of an apparent misunderstanding: In fact, the DC Historic Preservation Office did support the use of an expanded version of this terrace entrance, even as the single main entry - to save operating costs of about \$12M net-present-value.

This solution could be combined with minor excavation to provide a gentle slope from the sidewalk down to the entrance while exposing more of the terrace level and thereby celebrating more of the grandeur of the 1920s design. Compared to the ramps, or the daunting 14 steps, this inclined entrance would welcome more traffic into a library which now daunts away the majority of the residents of its service area who have not yet grown to appreciate the power of literacy and libraries. Form can amplify function.

DCPL Prepares for Demolition

Community Members Continue to Demand Engagement

by Virginia Avniel Spatz | *East of the River* | page 24 | September 2009

Community members and the DC Public Library have different visions for libraries in Ward 8. They also disagree about decision-making, including interpretations of terms such as "Notice" and "great weight."

This summer, DCPL continued with plans to demolish and replace the Washington Highlands Neighborhood Library, beginning this fall.

DCPL touts architect David Adjaye's cutting edge concept, while community members demand a design with "some reference to the neighborhood."

ANC requests for reconsideration of the entire project – possibly including renovation and other ways to provide other library services in Southeast – were dismissed by the library as "not compelling in any way."

A neighborhood coalition, including ANC commissioners from across the ward, banded together to request postponement of the library's Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) hearing, scheduled for Sept. 1.

Community and ANC Notice

Impending change is not obvious to a Washington Highlands visitor. This reporter, for example, recently approached from the east, browsed the collections and visited the children's area, restroom and meeting rooms without encountering any announcement of change or invitation to participate in planning. Required notice of the BZA hearing was not placed inside Washington Highland's large glass front but outside.

A regular library patron reported retrieving the rain-damaged sign from the dirt in late August. Once upright, the placard – although visible to

Atlantic Avenue pedestrians – remained hidden from the doors.

DCPL did not present plans to any ANC until June 22, when requesting support from ANC 8D – the commission in which Washington Highlands is located – for variances from courtyard and parking regulations.

A "courtesy copy" of the BZA application, filed May 22, was mailed June 25, after the meeting.

Great Weight

At its May 2009 meeting, ANC 8D passed a resolution demanding that DCPL "cease any further action toward the replacement of Washington Highlands Library and respond to the following 'great weight' issues ..." ANC 8E filed a supporting resolution.

In a July response, DCPL writes that "Notice" of the library's intent to replace Washington Highlands was sent on Oct. 1, 2008, giving the ANC "until approximately Monday, November 17, 2008, in order to advise DCPL relative to the Washington Highlands Library."

"Had ANC 8D responded to the 'Notice' within the required time frame," the response continues, "DCPL would have certainly given the offered advice 'great weight' as required pursuant to statute." In fact, however, the library did not await advice from ANC 8D before acting last fall.

Instead, they were months into the replacement process by Nov. 17: An architectural team was selected in July 2008. "The actual designing of the library building," DCPL writes, "began in earnest with the 'Hopes and Dreams' community meeting" on Sept. 18 – two weeks before "Notice" had been sent.

"DCPL has and continues to demonstrate good faith in engaging ANC 8D and the community," the library explains.

"Our intent was implicit in inviting the chairperson of ANC 8D and [another community member] to serve on the Architectural/Design Selection Panel."

The July 2009 response also details meetings to which ANC commissioners were invited.

ANC 8D Chair Theresa Jones did participate in the selection panel. In addition, individual commissioners, along with other community members, weighed in at library meetings.

It was not until June 22, in conjunction with the BZA application, however, that the library addressed the ANC as a body. Only as a body does an ANC's "great weight" apply.

Community Input, Needs

ANC 8D asked in their May 22 resolution if DCPL had conducted a needs assessment prior to the demolition decision.

"We [DCPL] are currently planning the methodology and scope of such an undertaking," the library responded.

A new library should be "a destination, an anchor, a place for learning and meeting that is welcoming and comfortable for the whole community," states DCPL literature. But community members do not find Adjaye's design welcoming or comfortable.

They add that concept drawings, which include no neighboring structures and feature a mostly light-skinned, European-looking crowd, fail to reference the existing community.

DCPL argues that community comments have been addressed and design changed in response to concerns.

Community members insist that designs shown in March 2009 were substantially complete without their input. While some community members favor any new building – "just replace that moldy place" – others wonder what the \$10 million investment, reconsidered, could bring.

Cardell Shelton (ANC 8C07) looks to construction as a form of involvement: "Let local craftsmen and trades-people do the work ... show their children, 'See that? I put that there.'"

The library activist group District Dynamos proposes renovation of the existing building – the only full-service library in Ward 8 – with cost savings directed to smaller store-front libraries elsewhere in the ward.

Karlene Armstead (ANC 8E06) was organizing a petition drive to demand meaningful community engagement prior to library action.

DCPL Calls for Art; Artists Respond

Also during the summer, DCPL – in conjunction with the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (DCCAHA) – sent out a call to artists in Wards 7 and 8 to present ideas for "four prominent areas inside the new Benning and Anacostia Libraries."

DCCAHA offered workshops, through the Ward 7 Arts Collaborative, to help artists convert their work into digital templates for submission. Approximately 20 artists participated.

Several noted objections to the process: Some were disappointed in previous interactions with DCCAHA, saying selection criteria were not apparent.

Others objected to each artist's \$2,500 stipend, while more substantial contracts went to non-locals.

Wanda Aikens, director of the Arts Collaborative, said community members had hoped for more substantial involvement in helping to shape the new facilities to community needs and culture.

Archie Williams, of DCPL, says the library expects to provide facilities which each community will make their own.

Contact the DC Public Library main office at 202-727-0321 or visit www.dclibrary.org.



SARAH'S CIRCLE

Where seniors create a home, serve the community and celebrate life.

September 24, 2009

2551 17th Street, NW
Suite 103
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: (202) 332-1400
Fax: (202) 667-9529
www.sarahscircle.org

Reference: Mt Pleasant Library

To whom it may concern:

Sarah's Circle offers affordable housing and wellness services to 39 very low income senior citizens living in an apartment building at Fuller and 17th Street NW. Our philosophy includes promoting and advocating for opportunities, e.g., library access, that promote learning and intellectual stimulation.

While that philosophy supports renovation of the Mt. Pleasant Library to make it more accessible, we are opposed to the current plan of a very long and elevated ramp to the back of the building.

Many of our residents have mobility challenges. This requires us to put the highest priority on access with the least degree of difficulty. That would appear to be the lower level front entrance.

It is interesting to note that, in addition to advocating for a smaller ramp because of easier access, one resident said, "People like me have had to go into buildings from the back years ago because I'm black. I don't go in from the back anymore!"

Sarah's Circle encourages the Library to spend its resources modernizing the current lower level entrance/ramp at the front of the building. We are opposed to the ramp as currently proposed.

Very truly yours,



Jim Brigl
Executive Director

Harvard Towers Resident Council

1845 Harvard Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Serving senior and disabled residents since 1961

October 2009

To whom it may concern:

I write on behalf of the seniors and disabled living at Harvard Towers in Ward One, Washington DC. This letter concerns the Mount Pleasant Library project being planned by DC Public Library and Chief Librarian Ginnie Cooper. The Mount Pleasant Library is the closest library serving our residents.

Harvard Towers residents were recently alerted to the fact that DC Public Library leadership (DCPL) plans to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant library. We were contacted about this project, not by DCPL staff, but by concerned senior/disabled advocates who are interested in seeing a constructive dialog happen regarding the proposed access ramp.

Currently, the library has a ramp that allows seniors and the disabled to enter the front of the library into the library's terrace level where, once inside, library patrons can use an elevator to access all floors. The existing ramp is about forty feet long and has an incline of less than three feet.

With the proposed renovation and expansion, DCPL wants to remove the current ramp and replace it with a ramp, located to the side and rear of the library, which is two to three times the length and height of the current ramp.

This longer and steeper ramp will make it harder for our residents to use the library and also pushes them to enter the rear of the building, raising all sorts of ethical questions.

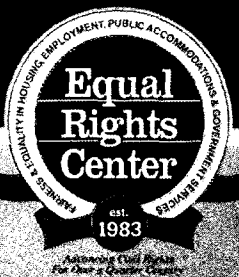
For these important reasons, Harvard Towers Resident Council, as an association of seniors and the disabled, opposes DCPL's unwelcoming expansion/ramp proposal. We have never been asked if this ramp would work for our residents and, if DCPL did engage us, we could have collaboratively worked with them to find a better solution.

We seek City leadership to work with us about this serious matter and look forward to finding a solution to an access ramp that welcomes all library users.

Please contact me for further information and the chance to discuss this matter. Feel free to email pastorascott@yahoo.com or call 202-483-1073.

Sincerely,

Angelia Scott, President
Harvard Towers Resident Council



October 16, 2009

Re: Accessible entrance at Mount Pleasant Library

To Whom It May Concern:

The Equal Rights Center (the "ERC") is a private not-for-profit civil rights organization that was founded in 1983 by a group of interdenominational clergy and community leaders. The ERC is a comprehensive national civil rights organization in the nation dedicated to furthering the advancement of equal access and opportunity in housing, employment, and places of public accommodations. We are writing to you because we have concerns regarding proposed renovation project at the Mount Pleasant Library and the resulting decrease in access for people with disabilities.

Currently, the Mount Pleasant Library has an accessible front entrance and allows people with disabilities the dignity of entering the library, as do its other patrons, through the front. However, the proposed renovation project will treat the disability community disparately forcing library users with disabilities to enter at the rear of the library. The ERC does not support a renovation plan which decreases access and forces people with disabilities to enter through the back like second class citizens.

The ERC requests that the DC Public Library leadership revisit the proposed plans for the Mount Pleasant Library and create a redesign that includes an accessible entrance on the front of the building, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wolfsheimer
Disability Rights Program Manager
Equal Rights Center
11 Dupont Circle NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
P: (202) 370-3210
jwolfsheimer@equalrightscenter.org

11 Dupont Circle N.W., Suite 450
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(f) 202.234.3106

www.equalrightscenter.org

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All-Ways Mount Pleasant (AMP) Resolutions on the MP Library

Compiled on 2009 10 25 in reverse chronological order. (12 years.)

2009 10 03 – Opposition to the ramp design, ugly aesthetics, & lack of accommodation for fire safety

A. AMP authorizes Gregg Edwards to take issues on the Mount Pleasant Library to Neil Albert, City Administrator.

The ramp is inhumane.

165 feet long, difficult and painful for seniors, handicapped and toddlers.

There is a sense of stigma about a separate rear entrance.

There is an attractive alternative from street to terrace level that is much shorter.

DCPL has not practiced ethical participation. DCPL has run over the community input from Day One. There are widespread reports and community sentiment of having something rammed down our throats.

Aesthetics

The design is asymmetric.

The design pushes construction to the property line of adjoining buildings.

The busy-ness of the new design is an affront to the historic and classic architecture.

Fire Safety

There is no accommodation for emergency access to a dozen apartment buildings on 3100 block 16/MP Streets.

There is a network of several vulnerable buildings that have old construction.

Fire officials confide privately that sprinkler systems are not enough, we need actual emergency exit and access.

We need a 20' minimum in order for a ladder truck to reach residents in high rise apartments.

B. We need to work with other groups and plan a rally on the library steps to accommodate the needs of the Mayor.

2009 07 11 – DCPL Fails to Engage Substantially

Library redesign Advisory Committee Process; unanimous resolution: AMP will send a letter to Jim Graham, to ANC1D, and to the DC Library Board of Trustees, objecting to the DCPL Mount Pleasant Library's Renovation Process.

Throughout ten months of continuing anger and agony throughout community links over the proposed design, there has been no substantial engagement from DCPL on these key issues: 1. the ramp design, 2. the lost opportunity for improved fire safety for more than 1000 people in the 3100 block of 16th and Mt Pleasant Streets, 3. the destruction of the symmetrical aesthetics of the Library, and 4. the insistence upon a second entrance for users who cannot use the steps. All of these issues have been raised repeatedly by All-Ways Mount Pleasant Neighbors Association. The DCPL's Community Input process was a gratuitous insult in the form of meetings where people could eventually speak, but were not listened to.

We are also angry that the DCPL has not taken into consideration the advice of our Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D, which has repeatedly raised these and other issues in great detail, with thoughtful recommendations that take into consideration the needs of the MtP community and Ward 1. Our ANC has held meetings about these issues that were not run top-down like the DCPL run meetings in which residents could express themselves freely. Our ANC is making great progress in becoming not only the legally representative body of the area, but representative of the diversity in MP, including those who are normally daunted from participation. The DCPL may not, under DC Code 1-309.10, ignore our

ANC! By not responding to any of the ANC resolutions on this matter, the DCPL is a systematic lawbreaker. It also appears that DCPL has run off two branch librarians and other well-respected staff, apparently giving evidence to the high handed and authoritarian management practices by the Chief Librarian. Are those who are competent and community minded a threat to a political regime?

2009 03 07 – On a Needs Assessment, MP Library

AMP will write a letter to the DCPL Board of Trustees, to US Representative E.H. Norton, to Mayor Fenty, to Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr., to Councilmember Jim Graham, and to all the ANCs in Ward 1 asking BOLT to conduct a needs assessment of the users of the Mt. Pleasant Library with an evaluation of the technological innovations that will impact library services in the coming decades. AMP also asks BOLT to consider alternatives that serve the rest of the ward such as satellite libraries, and to design with all of these factors in mind.

2008 12 06 – Disturbing Reports from MP Library Staff

We resolved to send notes from discussions AMP members have had with several folks that have worked at the Mount Pleasant Library. Since we've heard the remarks now so often, from so many sources, and since it appears there is no channel for communication within DCPL, we resolved to send these notes to CM Jim Graham's office, CM Harry Thomas (oversight Libraries), and John Hill, DCPL Board. Notes were taken directly after informal exchanges.

1. The Re-design of the MP Library is a great opportunity to change, and is change is certainly needed.
2. DCPL has not consulted library staff one bit. The librarians have never once been consulted about their own work, or invited to participate in the process.

3. There are sacrosanct rules that prevent library employees from giving any input, particularly about the children's room. Nothing should be said in criticism of how it is done. The one big corral wide-open space is a nightmare: mixing small children and adolescents without walls or physical dividers creates a circus atmosphere.
4. The library staff is overwhelmed. The neighborhood has changed and its service has changed a lot. There are hundreds of groups that use the library and its programs. There are 10 times the number of individuals we deal with on a daily basis than 20 years ago.
5. We need activity rooms for different groups and purposes. We need a more modernized facility, with rooms designed for different types of activities. Toddlers need a small quiet room where they can nap. There are special needs kids too who need room for their activities. We don't really know how adolescents are using the computers, for example – there's no monitoring.
6. The upstairs childrens' space is too large, too sprawling, not suited to programs, activities, *learning*. It forces librarians into herding, head-counting, instead of facilitating *learning*. We are glibly told that any program group can be taken over into a quiet corner. There is no such thing as a quiet corner. We need some physical division in order to have that focus.

2008 11 01 – On a Location for Temporary Library

We resolve to write a letter to Jim Graham encouraging him to continue with his efforts to find a local location for the temporary library and asking him to support the work of local civic organizations by finding a "community office" space. This space, which would house jointly used/owned printing presses and have some storage space and meeting space, could be

provided by the re-designed/interim library or by a local landlord who could be leveraged into providing space in consideration of all they take out of the ward.

2008 08 02 – Redesign the Mount Pleasant Library with Authentic Community Participation

AMP resolves to form a task force that will work together on issues related to the re-design of the Mount Pleasant Library and authentic community participation.

Why

At least 6 DC libraries will be simultaneously closed for 2 or more years for infrastructure upgrades and re-design. Activists around the city are outraged and lawsuits are being filed against the library system. MtP's new design is being done without authentic community consultation and the proposed design will block the possibility of creative space additions as well as the inclusion of other city services or financing supports like air space rental or endowments. Because this is the last library improvement project the city is likely to fund for another century, we must force the city to do this right. Because of recent infrastructure upgrades, the MtP library remodeling could be delayed for at least a year while we go "back to the drawing board" to get a better design and more imaginative funding. Since we have already passed a resolution asking for this delay, we resolved to form a task force that will work together to mobilize thinking on this issue.

2008 07 05 – DCPL is breaking ANC laws citywide.

1. AMP will work with the city-wide group concerned with the redesign process of DC's Libraries, because DCPL has a very anti-democratic approach and DCPL is breaking the ANC law.
2. We ask DCPL specifically not to close this library to the point until they have worked

with the local residents, and not to rebuild the library until they have worked with us and other local residents.

2008 06 07 – Consider 60 Local Educational Programs

To DC Public Library Board

We ask that the MP library be kept within 2 blocks of the current location at 16th and Lamont during its renovation period has these advantages, which no other site has.

1. There are 60 educational programs within 6 blocks of its current location at 16th and Lamont.
2. A small change in location would not risk changing people's current habits and use.
3. A location at the 4 corners of the Ward 1 ANC's and accessible to all Ward 1.
4. Proximity of the Metro.
5. Access to a nexus of long distance bus stops. Our library is convenient by bus whereas Petworth involves several transfers.

2008 03 01 – Delay Plans Rehabilitation MP Library

Unanimous Resolution: Delay the plans for a modest and primarily historic and cosmetic rehabilitation of our library.

Continuing with the current renovation plans will preserve a conception of libraries that arose in the late 19th century, a conception that is increasingly at odds with the rapidly changing and broadening needs for the 21st.

Opportunities that are being missed by the current plan are:

1. A flexible space that will be adaptable to diverse programs instead of reading rooms with high ceiling that use enormous amounts of space for only one purpose;
2. A redesigned front entrance that preserves the grandeur of the current front entrance but allows all to enter at the ground floor, removing any sense of stigma for seniors, toddlers, and the handicapped;

3. A mechanical and wiring plan that is modular and allows for inexpensive upgrades that will keep pace with future advances in energy and information technology;
4. An opportunity to engage potential partners across Ward 1 and the city: schools and colleges, recreation centers, adult education programs and other non-profit education and tutoring programs;
5. An opportunity to expand the space, or to better use the land nearby for future needs and revenue streams.

This situation is made more urgent by the fact that this financial allotment may be the last one awarded to Mt. Pleasant for 50 years or more. Forms should follow function, and the functions of a library are in transition. We should not spend our rare dollars to recreate pretty 19th century forms that will certainly not be suited to future functions.

2006 06 03 – Needed Security, Fire & Emergency Plans for the Mount Pleasant Library

Security, Fire, Emergency Plans for the Mount Pleasant Library.

We want the same kind of safety security policing fire emergency plan for library facilities, starting with using as an example, the Mount Pleasant Library. This plan needs to be approved by MPD, office of Emergency Preparedness, and Fire/EMT department.

Based on our resolution on Security Plans for Apartment Buildings:

Apt Bldg Security Plans, Tenant Support Legislation, Inter-Agency Task Force.

We specifically regret the long-standing reports of a failure to coordinate between security forces of the Woodner and MPD. This failure is seen in many ways including a frustration of the residents feeling that they can call for help when threatened. This occurs because when they call Security forces, they are told to call the Police, and when they call

the Police, they are told to call the Security forces. They then feel completely abandoned. It is at a minimum of good faith due diligence that the Woodner Management and MPD, keep a list of incidents, and be able to say within a reasonable amount of time -- not to exceed 2 weeks -- how this issue has been constructively addressed. We believe it is within the power of management to do something about crimes committed to tenants by other tenants while maintaining privacy and the presumption of innocence.

AMP stands in solidarity with the ANC Commissioner of that District, Mitchell P. Backfield, and the Woodner Building Association, and we offer our support and partnership on these and any other reasonable ideas to address the situation.

We recommend that, at a minimum, the Woodner must propose to MPD the duties and responsibilities of its security operations. We also ask the cooperation of the Council, particularly Councilmember Graham, to consider requiring a process where larger apartment buildings must have their security plan approved by MPD and be part of the new legislation for Tenant Support. (We specify a larger apartment building as being 20 units or more.)

We authorize and ask the Board of AMP to formulate testimony for a submission to the DC Council for the next round of Tenant Support legislation to include this, together with other plans for Emergency Evacuation and Fire Safety.

This plan must be made available to all tenants when they come in, and at least once every 2 years. It must be made available in writing.

We ask CM Graham and ANC1D to propose legislation that would assure that Fire/Emergency Plans of larger apartments, coordinate with other DC Agencies, and that an inter-agency Task Force be established before making an assessment.

We want the Task Force to be the responsibility of DCRA.

2002 05 04 – Broken Promises from DCPL

To the Board of Trustees, District of Columbia Libraries.

We view with alarm the failure to answer, or to follow through the promise of the Director of Library Systems to work with us (made on April 9th, 2002 to our Chair, Gregg Edwards at the MLK Meeting on the Changing Face of the DC Libraries) in our efforts to understand and participate in the library discussion on the future.

1. They never answered our letter.
2. They withheld the video tape of the meeting on April 9, 2002.
3. The promise by (Molly) to work with us has gone unmet.
4. A Freedom of Information Act, send to the Library Board and City Council.

In other words, we've gotten the total cold shoulder on each of these items. Not even a postcard.

[ek: say what you are saying in plain English at this meeting] We challenge you to come up with a truly good plan to work with the community here.

2002 04 04 – Delegate Gregg Edwards to Future of DC Library Meeting.

We delegate Chair Gregg Edwards to the Future of D.C. Library Meeting at Martin Luther King Library on April 9th, 2002, with a letter of resolution supporting the Mount Pleasant Library.

The core of our recommendation is that the budget and operation of the Mount Pleasant Library be improved with priorities for a functionally oriented building, while respectful

of the historic zone, would offer more and better space for books, meetings, and accommodate new technology and computer services.

1998 03 07 Improvement of the MP Library

01

Meet with Ellen Kardy, Mount Pleasant Branch Librarian, and if she is willing work with us on issues in the community, we will support her by going to everyone we can (library bureaucracy, city council, media) to improve the deplorable conditions of the Mount Pleasant Public Library.

02

A Task Force for the Improvement of Mount Pleasant Library is created.



HISTORIC MOUNT PLEASANT

January 11, 2010

Mr. Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairman
Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 105
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Roundtable on Library Capital Contracts and Community Engagement Activities

Dear Councilmember Thomas:

Historic Mount Pleasant welcomes the invitation for further public discussion of the D.C. Public Library's (DCPL) ambitious construction program but regrets that, as the notice for today's event was not posted until this past Friday, we will be unable to appear and present the kind of statement the situation merits. We request that a full public hearing be scheduled as soon as possible with appropriate notice so that all interested groups and individuals can participate.

In testimony before the committee on March 16, 2009, I described some of the failings of public notice in our neighborhood that led to an inadequate design process for a substantial addition to the historic Mount Pleasant Branch Library. While a design has now been approved in concept by both the US Commission of Fine Arts and the Historic Preservation Review Board, opposition to it remains widespread among residents and potential users. The fundamental problems that continue to be raised regarding the "design," however, really call into question the "program" developed by DCPL for this site. Established "design review" processes, including our own within Historic Mount Pleasant, look primarily to property owners to decide how to use their buildings and lot areas.

The two issues that seem to underlie continuing opposition are the overall size of the addition and the length of the ramp. The size, as my testimony last March indicated, is required primarily by DCPL's desire to have a 100-person meeting room, the need for which many have questioned. The length of the proposed ramp follows from DCPL's insistence – again, against the repeated objections of residents and other users, notably disability rights advocates – that the library should have one point of controlled entry, preferably on the first floor. As the first floor is seven feet above grade, and the lower level three feet below, moving the "accessible" entrance to the upper level as proposed necessarily involves substantially lengthening the ramp. The need for a single point of entry reflects, we understand, DCPL's concern over likely budgetary shortages in the future that will prevent it from fully staffing both levels of the renovated library.

In short, while we have worked with DCPL to improve the design for the addition, we remain disappointed with the result. The Mount Pleasant Branch Library is in urgent need of renovation. It is also the last and the largest of the three Carnegie branch library buildings and a unique architectural

asset to the city as a whole. We would have expected any substantial change to it would have been proposed only after a thorough review of citywide library needs and facilities and development of a master plan that took into account both the special place of the Carnegie buildings in the system and their individual attributes. Instead, Takoma Park has now been beautifully restored inside and out, and Mount Pleasant is proposed for a thorough renovation including substantial interior demolition and a dramatic change in the overall appearance of the building.

We do not believe the broader issues concerning the renovation of the Mount Pleasant Branch Library have received the attention they deserve. We would welcome an opportunity to address them in more detail in the future.

Sincerely,

Fay Armstrong

Fay Armstrong
President

cc: Mr. David Catania
Mr. Kwame Brown
Mr. Phil Mendelson
Ms. Yvette Alexander
Mr. Jim Graham

Public Oversight Roundtable, Committee on Libraries, Parks & Recreation,
Harry Thomas, Jr., Chairperson.

Public Oversight Roundtable: Monday, January 11, 2010

I am Commissioner Gregg Edwards, testifying today on behalf of All-Ways Mt Pleasant Neighbors Association (AMP), not in my role as Vice-Chair of the Mt Pleasant ANC 1D.

AMP has been involved in this project since 2002 when DCPL board first publically discussed their new branch program. When we asked for a copy of the tapes of the meetings we were told they had been lost. None of our letters or resolutions have been answered, except by signatures on the postal return receipts. Thus our more than twenty meetings and fifteen resolutions on this project have been ignored. DCPL annuls the constitutional right of petition by dumpster.

The program adopted by DCPL was for cookie cutter facilities that ignore local needs. We were told that this design represents the expertise of the librarian profession, and that no lay people can make worthy suggestions. In fact, I have been hired by several of the national library associations to develop future plans, and DCPL's plans are at least thirty years behind advanced practice. They chose as their models the facilities planned fifteen to twenty years ago by third-tier jurisdictions like St. Louis.

A world capital needs world-class intelligence and design. Our creatively diverse neighborhoods need support to realize their energetically divergent imaginations. DCPL by failing to use advanced practices and to consult library facilities for how to do this exposes itself to be the anti-library: The wisdom in books are mere decoration; the substance is political machinations of people too busy to embody in their lives and work the creative spirit of the human enterprise.

DCPL's attitude towards our members is evident when folks living in apartment buildings overlooking the library tell us they never take a few steps to use the facility because the culture is daunting and does not serve their interests or needs.

AMP has surveyed not only its members and users around ward one - this is the only library in ward one - but also over a dozen of library staff. When their cooperation in talking with us became known, many were shortly thereafter fired or reassigned. True, we have no proof of causality, but this fits the pattern observed in other cities where Ginnie Cooper has directed. This is borne out in interviews AMP has conducted with ex-staff in other cities, and in the several hundred comments on a *Washington Post* article on Ginnie Cooper.

AMP's inquiry found that experts, including DCPL's staff, knew of other ways to spend the money that would likely have ten times the impact. Because these informants are not DCPL officers, Ginnie Cooper dismissed these ideas as disqualified because they come from lay people. This is a deep logical fallacy, well documented in the library's books. Cooper is an anti-librarian.

DCPL's public consultation process goes against codified best practices and codes of ethics. For example the ethics of the professional association on public participation requires that every impacted party understands the alternatives and consequence on all parties, and that their interests be explicitly considered.

Instead, the meeting were extensive top-down presentations of only the library's plans, with comments usually delayed and cut short. The

resolutions of ANCs (3) 1C and 1D (17 resolutions with hundreds of points) were essentially ignored - the points in those resolutions were not addressed to the minimum standards set by case law. DCPL at least applies sharp practices and essentially flouts the ANC and case law. Their public participation process is manipulative and contrary to ethics. By contrast, ANC 1D held or cosponsored 18 public meetings to consider and develop its resolutions. For the very first time in Mt Pleasant's history, all groups and factions agreed in their opposition to this plan.

DCPL's reps testified before the Historic Preservation Review Board that the public approved their plans. In fact, they did get a bare majority after a highly one-sided presentation, but only because the plurality of the audience was DCPL staff and contractors who voted with them. A clear majority of residents - what most would consider to be the public - voted against their plan. Thus, DCPL dissimulates, which is a form of lying.

DCPL's reps testified before the US Commission on Fine Arts that a ground floor entrance - one suggested by the Historic Preservation Office staff - would be impossible. Their experts used absolutes that are difficult to prove and thus quite unprofessional. This is contrary to suggestions made to them for a curb-bump out that makes the entrance off the sidewalk inviting and immediate. DCPL lies and does not listen to anything more than small changes around their preset ideas.

Mt Pleasant has been a historic district for 22 years. ANC 1D submitted, in vain, its brief (in collaboration with Historic Mt Pleasant) on why DCPL's design does not meeting the principles laid out the Historic Office's guides.

There remain two big issues:

A huge ramp of perhaps several hundred tons and over a hundred feet to daunt future

hundreds of thousands of visitors, seniors and handicapped.

That ramp would close emergency access to about a dozen buildings with several thousand residents in danger of a fire like the eight alarmer that consumed the Deauville. Access would allow ladder trucks to quickly reach over a thousand people who otherwise might be trapped to their death or dire injury.

In sum, DCPL has not been a transparent, responsible, law-abiding, or honest agency. Its director has had similar problems previously. It is a rogue, and its products need serious attention before the council approves them.



JIM GRAHAM
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD ONE
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004



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Chairperson
Committee on
Public Works and the Environment

Voting Member
Board of Directors, Washington
Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

February 20, 2009

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC, 20004

An Appeal from a Unified Mount Pleasant – Proposed Mount Pleasant Library Renovations

Dear Mayor Fenty,

As organizations deeply committed to the success of our Ward One library in Mount Pleasant, we ask that you pause the process pertaining to the current library renovation plans and engage the community in real, meaningful community discussion and input into the library's design process. The proposed design reflects no meaningful consultation within Ward One about the significant changes under consideration for the library. The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts has asked for more design options to consider, and the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board will now schedule a hearing of its own.

DCPL has allowed no substantial community involvement of Mount Pleasant or the broader Ward One communities in their architectural design of an important public building in an historic district. The following important issues need to be addressed:

- Use of available space
- Aesthetic appearance
- Public safety and access/egress from adjoining buildings
- Efficient use of tax dollars

We would be happy to provide you with more in depth information on each bulleted item.

We have an opportunity to engage the DCPL at the Mount Pleasant Library on Tuesday, February 24th at 6:30 p.m. and we hope you can be there to support us.

Sincerely,



Fay Armstrong, President
Historic Mount Pleasant



Gregg Edwards, Commissioner
ANC1D-04 (Mount Pleasant)



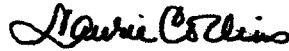
Jim Graham
Ward One Councilmember



Greg Nicklas, President
JGI Properties



Jeremy Pollock, President
Tonic Restaurant



Laurie Collins, President
Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance



Sean P. Gannon, President
Mount Pleasant Condominium Association



Adam Hoey, President
Mount Pleasant Main Street



Chris Otten, Commissioner
ANC1C-04 (Adams Morgan)



Jack McKay, Commissioner
ANC1D-03 (Mount Pleasant)

Cc: Sarah E. Latterner
Director, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services
Yaiza E. Garabito-Burrell
Ward 1 - Outreach & Services Specialist, Mayor's Office of Community
Relations & Services

Performance Oversight on DCPL, February 25, 2010

DC Council Committee on Libraries, Harry Thomas Jr Chairing,

I'm Commissioner Gregg Edwards, testifying today on behalf of All-Ways Mt Pleasant Neighbors Association (AMP), not in my role as the Chair of ANC1D. I live across from the ward one library, and amidst the many large and old apartment buildings that house over 80% of Mt Pleasant residents, most lower income, the second largest concentration of immigrants, and many seniors and disabled.

When at AMP meetings, seniors and disabled have seen the library plans for a 200-ton over hundred-foot long ramp they are outraged at the pain, difficulty and danger of having to climb the ramp. While perhaps technically meeting ADA requirements for retrofitting buildings where there is no other way, a series of volunteer architects immediately said that the current ground floor entrance just next to the prior main entrance in front is an obvious and better way.

The library's architects testified before the Commission on Fine Arts that there is, quote **absolutely** no other feasible way. So, here we have an obviously false statement by the library's agents, and one that will inflict pain and distress on hundreds of thousands of visitors over coming decades. Here we have an independent agency that is so used to evading peer review that they are habitually bold to lie and incompetence.

AMP has been involved with this process since 2002, eight years. Our board authorized presentations at the so-called public meetings to inform their Board's formulation of a top-down, cookie-cutter policy of building similar buildings in every part of the city, ignoring

variations in local needs. From the first meetings, they had already decided what they wanted, did not respond to public comments, and when pressed to release their tapes of the meetings, claimed they had lost them. They learned the wrong lesson from Watergate.

The library ignored over a dozen AMP resolutions pointing out that their methods and conclusions went against the rapid changes in better practice for libraries. The only evidence that they had gotten the resolutions, often also hand delivered to staff and board members, is a signature on the postal delivery receipt. They had learned how easy they can annul constitutional rights of petition by the simple means: Dumpster.

AMP, and ANC1D, has pointed out that their design would cut off access by fire ladder trucks to about a dozen large apartment buildings, of a similar design to the Deauville the site of DC's worst fire ever, an eight-alarm. This puts in unwarranted danger the lives of thousands of people.

AMP interviewed local library experts who outlined the case that the ward one library is missing most of the population, and that their budget could be ten times as effective in outreach. The cultural gap is so extreme that neighbors whose apartments overlook the library say they now just don't walk across the street to get information to make life-critical decisions, for personal learning projects, or to prepare for jobs.

BTW: Many of the library staff that spoke with us were fired or demoted/transferred

and now want talk. This library has the culture of a tyrannical state, and comments on a Washington Post article on Ginnie Cooper show there are many who felt similarly damaged in her gigs in other towns. She appears to many as the Anti-Librarian.

Instead of acting like a world-class city - demonstrating the power of creative civilization - they took as models similar sized cities with extravagant architecture based on long discredited principles of the early Victorian penal reform movement. Their best models were designs from twenty and thirty years ago.

Their planning was not only pre-1950s presumption of expertise and ignoring the public, but is incompetent and laggard, and an insult to a free people. Their independence now is so extreme they can ignore the counsel in their books. Rather than an example of the transforming power of learning, they model power politics of hypocrisy as the Anti-Library.

DC law has built in a remedy: The requirement to work with Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. A month ago this committee heard Ginnie Cooper say her only regret is not being clear that the library had no intent to consult with the public - this must include ANC's - but instead do what the library alone decides. This behavior is seen in the virtual ignoring and lack of substantial answering of ANC resolutions. All over DC, in the eight areas of new branch libraries, it's been the same story. ANC 1C passed three resolutions, and 1D 17! None answered according to legal requirements.

Cooper's testimony shows that this was a systematic and conscious flouting of the ANC

law and the more detailed requirements laid down by the DC Appeals Court.

Library staff and board members take a solemn oath of office to faithfully both execute the laws and discharge the duties of office.

Until now, the DC Council has not held the library responsible for their independence from peer review, advanced practices, and faithful following of their oaths. This now gets to the apparent gross wastage of tax dollars in inefficient and long laggard designs and operations with potentially huge consequences: Loss of life in fires, decades of painful and insulting entrance, inefficient operations for the few ignoring the needs of most ward one residents, and the loss of learning opportunities for many tens of thousands of residents.

AMP asks the Council for two remedies:

1. Do not approve a design based on years of continued incompetence and flouting of the law. Demand at least that the design be remedied to remove a daunting and dangerous 200-ton hundred foot plus ramp in favor of the immediate and inviting expansion of the current front and ground floor entrance.

2. As a pilot program, institute a procedure for impeachment and removal of appointed officials, including the director and board members, for their conscious flouting of DC law, and their culture of dishonorable abjuring of their oath of office.

Please do not allow such dishonest behavior to hurt, curtail, or even threaten the lives of many thousands of our neighbors.

Local Learning Nodes, Child, Youth, & Adult

Within extended walking
distance of 16th & Lamont NW.
In no particular order, this list is
a very rough draft; add more,
please!

Legend:
DCPS = DC Public School
PCS = Public Charter School

DPR = DC Dept Parks &
Recreation
USPS = US Park Service
Updated 2008 03 14/Gregg Edwards
(234-6646)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bell Multicultural HS, DCPS 2. Lincoln Junior High, DCPS 3. Sacred Heart Catholic School 4. Capital City PCS 5. Mt. Pl. Branch Library Children Ed Programs 6. Little Flower Montessori School 7. ABC (Academia Bilingue de la Comunidad) PCS 8. Casa Del Pueblo Ed Programs 9. Latino Youth Center Art and Media House 10. LYC WISE School (Workforce Investment & Social Enterprise) 11. Hermano y Hermana DC, Women's Shelter Ed Programs 12. DC Alternative Learning Academy 13. Ethiopian Community Services Adult Ed Programs 14. Asian Center (Park Road) Ed Programs 15. 16th and Lamont Recreation Facility, DPR 16. Neighbor's Consejo Computacion 17. Neighbor's Consejo ESL 18. Centro Nia/DC Bilingual PCS 19. Centro Nia/Learning Center GED Programs 20. Centro Nia/Professional Development Programs 21. Keely's District Boxing and Youth Center 22. Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. 23. E.L. Haynes PCS 24. Barbara Chambers Learning Center 25. Bancroft Elementary School, DCPS 26. Columbia Heights Youth Soccer League 27. Harriet Tubman, DCPS 28. Girard Street Recreation Facility, DPR 29. Carlos Rosario International PCS 30. Carlos Rosario GED and Adult Education 31. Citiwide Computer Training Center (at Woodner) 32. GAP Community Childcare Center (at Woodner) 33. DC Self-Defense Karate Association (at Bancroft) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 34. CHANGE Adult Education Center (computer lab) 35. Children's Studio PCS 36. Meridian PCS 37. Marie Reed Learning Center DPR 38. Youth Build PCS 39. Nation House Watoto Middle School 40. San Miguel Middle School (boys only) 41. Ellen's Playschool 42. Rosemount Center Ed Programs 43. Spanish Education Development Center (2 locations) 44. Lillian Lynch Child Day Care Programs 45. Academy for Advanced and Strategic Studies internship. 46. Dance Institute of Washington Education Programs 47. Urban Village Community Center Ed Programs 48. John Wade Tutoring Projects 49. Cornelius Carter Education Center (Canaan Baptist) 50. Prep School, just south of Argoyle Apartments 51. Columbia Heights Youth Soccer League 52. Calvary Methodist Church Educational Programs 53. Asian American LEAD 54. SOS Boat People – Vietnamese Services. 55. Lt. Vines Athletic After School Programs (MPD) 56. Will Streeter mentoring – alternative achievement. 57. National Zoo programs 58. Sergeant Juanita Echols Holiday Programs (MPD) 59. Department of Parks and Recreation Headquarters Programs 60. United Federation of Churches programs 61. Past Tense Yoga Studio 62. Community of Christ (La Casa) Programs |
|--|---|



March 2, 2010

Ms. Ginnie Cooper
Chief Librarian
DC Public Library
901 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ms. Cooper,

At its February 25, 2010 monthly membership meeting, the Kalorama Citizens Association (KCA) heard and saw a presentation from DCPL officials Archie Williams and Chris Wright, on plans for renovation of, and an addition to, the Mt. Pleasant library.

Having followed the issue of these plans through the media, list-serves, meetings of ANC 1C, the DC HPRB and US CFA, as well as information on the DCPL web-site, I wanted KCA members to be aware of these plans and their repercussions for the library, programmatically, and architecturally.

After the presentation, questions and answers, and lengthy discussion, KCA members had numerous concerns which are reflected in the resolution below, which was approved at the meeting.

The resolution and member's questions and statements at the meeting reflect KCA's concern as to whether such an addition is necessary, the effect it would have on the appearance of the historic building, and whether a plan of this scope is a good use of taxpayer's money.

In the end, KCA requests that DCPL re-engage with the community over these plans. Many other neighborhood groups have expressed their concerns over this project. I strongly urge you to take steps to begin a new round of community engagement, beginning with a needs assessment.

Sincerely,


Denis James

cc:

Mayor Adrian Fenty
City Administrator Neil Albert
City Council Chairman Vincent Gray
Chairman of Council Committee On Libraries, Parks & Recreation
Harry Thomas, Jr.
Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham

KCA Resolution on DCPL Plans For Addition and Renovation of Mt. Pleasant Library, February 25, 2010

Whereas, the Mt. Pleasant Public Library, located at 3160 Lamont Street, NW is Ward One's only DC Public Library, and

Whereas, residents of Adams Morgan, which is entirely within the boundaries of Ward One, depend on the

Denis James ☐ President
Bob Ellsworth ☐ Vice President
Linda Ingram ☐ Secretary
William O'Field ☐ Treasurer
Jane Firor ☐ Delegate, Federation Citizens Associations
Joyce Douglas ☐ Delegate, Federation of Civic Associations

Founded 1919

P.O. Box 21311
Kalorama Station
Washington, DC 20009



Mt. Pleasant Branch Library for their library needs, and

Whereas, the Mt. Pleasant Library is an historic structure, built in 1925 through funding made available by Andrew Carnegie, the library is part of the Mt. Pleasant Historic District, and contains important murals in the children's section by artist Aurelius Battaglia, and

Whereas, the DC Public Library, is the owner of the building and currently has a plan to renovate the existing structure and build a two story addition in the rear yard, including a very large, 100 foot long, by up to 7' tall entry ramp and

Whereas, the DCPL plans also seem to include the discontinuance of use of the main front entrance, including the existing front entry ramp, and

Whereas, there are concerns over the program planned for the renovated, expanded building and whether the proposed program needs so much additional space, taking into account the current inefficient use of the existing space, and

Whereas, there are budgetary concerns that have been expressed by Ginnie Cooper, DCPL Chief Librarian, in an interview with the Washington Times as to whether there will be adequate funds to properly staff existing DC libraries, particularly when all the planned new and renovated libraries are ready for public use, and

Whereas, DCPL has not given serious consideration to fire safety issues that could be improved in the area of the Mt. Pleasant library by allowing access through their lot,

Now therefore, the Kalorama Citizens Association calls on the DCPL to hold in abeyance the permit application process and re-engage with the community in a truly responsive process to develop a plan that represents the actual needs of Ward One residents, including; consideration of ANC 1C's (Adams Morgan) and ANC 1D's (Mt. Pleasant) independent review of ADA and fire safety issues; and consideration of a satellite location in Adams Morgan.

Denis James □ President
Bob Ellsworth □ Vice President
Linda Ingram □ Secretary
William O'Field □ Treasurer
Jane Firor □ Delegate, Federation Citizens Associations
Joyce Douglas □ Delegate, Federation of Civic Associations

Founded 1919

P.O. Box 21311
Kalorama Station
Washington, DC 20009

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April 9, 2010

I feel that the new landscape would be a hazard to our neighborhood.

Living at the Majestic over 20 years, from my apartment I overlook much loitering, loud noises, arguments, fights.

I call the police some nights to have vagrants removed from the steps of the Mount Pleasant Library.

If you have a park-like section in our residential area, it will cause more vagrancy.

Elliott L. Brown

Neighbors' remarks recorded by Steve Mudd, a resident on the same block as the Library for 23 years. Neighbors include Beatrice Stewart, Bertha McCoy, Ursula Boyce

I've seen the plans and pictures. They don't make sense to me. It's beautiful the way it is. It's a historical landmark, isn't it? Besides think of the money they could use in better ways. Whose idea was it? It did not come out of any of the many meetings I have been to where we discussed the Library. We weren't consulted when our Branch Librarian was fired. She was treated with disrespect. She worked hard to maintain a community link. I guess they don't want that.

The structure *needs* the open grounds and space around in order to behold it, like in a photograph or painting. These new designs look like clutter. They confuse the classic beauty. It looks like they are tacking on a mall structure. I don't get it. It's ordinary. It's out of place. When you think about living with it, visiting it, it's just ugly. You don't have to go to college and study art history to see that. It makes me want to not go near it or inside it.

I like the spacious setting, the way the Library faces out on a corner, set back from 16th Street, and already has a park and greenery. You can walk along the east and north side. It's a wonderful walk along the sidewalk that wraps around it. The statue and grounds in neighboring Marconi Park is superior design too. It's all part of a vision. Most folks can see that. These new additions are not, they get in the way. They don't belong. Perhaps they think the way it is is old-fashioned. I think it's timeless. They've tried and failed before with these makeovers. It's a foolish shame to make over our very finest piece of architecture.

A side garden is going to be a magnet for more of the problems we have now – vagrancy, litter, all kinds of bad behavior – drinking, sex tricks. More problems we don't need. This is a dense residential area. We're not the burbs. This is not downtown either, where they have night-time security. It will become a filthy bathroom. It will become a terrible nuisance to the building next to it, 3155 MP Street.

When they act like they want to listen but really are pushing hell and high water for what they want – that's known as steam-rolling the community. Who are these people – the architects and library officials -- to think they know what we want and need?

I would like to see them improve the heating and cooling. The meeting rooms are drafty. The mechanical systems are noisy. The windows and doors are not secured well. They need some separated and flexible spaces to keep up with changes in programs and services. The library staff is overworked trying to deal with children and adolescents in one big open space. Too many things are going on with no separation and only one help desk. There's a lot of wasted unused space, particularly in the basement. Trash and equipment are out in the halls.

There are many folks in the east part of the Ward who make a long trip here by bus, or walking. We could use another Ward 1 facility. But I doubt if they can find the money to do that & build this too.

This design has a book-store café feeling to it. We have enough of that. That's ordinary. Why do we have to spend millions of tax dollars to be ordinary? And it's another slap to the people who need libraries most. My neighbors know gentrification when they see it. The public meetings have everyone I talk to upset. New, younger residents also say they do not appreciate the way residents are dismissed at these public meetings. DCPL is giving us a deaf ear on our complaints of a long access ramp, lack of fire department access to our buildings, and badly needed programs.

What is their public process for if they don't listen? It's not honest. The Library Board keeps barreling through and putting out their press releases and playing their politics. Who can stop them? Do they care about the community or their jobs or resumes? I don't see them working with us on a solution. So what will we be left with? Something we don't want. And won't want to use.

We the undersigned residents or merchants, living or working in buildings next to or near the proposed Mount Pleasant Library expansion, support the creation of a Fire Access Lane.

This Fire Access Lane, which could be built from Lamont Street beside the Library, would allow fire ladder trucks to enter the space between the Mount Pleasant Library and the 3100 blocks of Mount Pleasant Street and 16th Street.

As the Deauville Fire of March 2008 taught us, fire fighters have to get behind our buildings. Speedy access of fire equipment could help prevent fires jumping from one building to another, endangering more than a dozen buildings with over 1000 lives. Our buildings are close together, multi-story and many do not have fire escapes or sprinkler systems.

Signature/Date	Address
1. <u>[Signature]</u> 4/16/10	3132 16 th St NW Washington DC (Garbin Towers)
2. <u>Idalia Guzman</u> 4/16/10	3150 16 th ST NW #25 W.DC
3. <u>Agustin Guzman</u> 4/16/10	3150 16 th St NW #25 W.DC
4. <u>[Signature]</u> 4/16/10	3151 MT. Pleasant St. N.W.
5. <u>[Signature]</u> 4/15/10	3107 Mt Pleasant St NW DC 20010
6. <u>[Signature]</u> 4/15/10	3167 Mt Pleasant St NW DC 20014
7. <u>George Amaya</u> 4/15/10	3200 16 th and Lamont St. Mt Pleasant
8. <u>Kristen Hager</u> 4/15/10	3159 MT pleasant st
9. <u>Ariel Sanchez</u> 4/14/10	3149 mt. Pleasant St.
10. <u>[Signature]</u>	3125 MT PLEASANT. ST
11. <u>[Signature]</u>	3125 mt pleasant. ST.
12. <u>[Signature]</u>	3110 16 th St N.W
13. <u>George Perez</u> 04/16/2010	3132 16 th St N.W
14. <u>Ernest E Boyce</u>	3150 - 16 th N.W. #36

Please return completed petition to chair, ANC 1 D, 1647 Lamont St, 202-234-6646

Testimony before the DC Council Committee on Libraries

Chaired by Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr. May 3, 2010

by Dr Gregg Edwards, Chair, the Mt Pleasant Advisory Neighborhood Commission (1D)

Today ANC 1D brings to you attention a recent resolution passed at its April regular monthly meeting, duly noticed with a quorum.

Since the resolution deals with the plans of the DC Public Library to reconstruct the Mt Pleasant branch, and since the DC Council must approve the contract, this resolution is entitled to Great Weight. Great Weight by statute and case law means the Council and the various agencies must acknowledge receipt of this resolution, and answer each point in particularity from the perspective of the ANC with evidence-based arguments to agree, and if not, state at least equally weighted arguments on why it does not agree.

Please note this resolution is a roll-up of 13 previous resolutions, with 183 points that have not been answered by DCPL or the DC Council. Almost none of these resolutions have been acknowledged by DCPL. None by the DC Council despite a ruling from the Council's attorney that it is itself subject to the ANC provisions of the DC Home Rule charter, a federal law, and to ANC-related statutes and case-law. Surely, the Council wants to set a better example of respect for the law.

There is some good news: First, at a cost of almost \$2M, the DC Council did respond and implemented the 1D resolution asking for an interim library nearby the

now closed branch. Second, DCPL did accept the 1D resolution asking it to ditch the "ice cube" - a multi-story tall meeting room as a large glass extension just to the west the current building.

Unfortunately, DCPL then shifted the 'meeting room' structure to the rear, blocking two potential emergency and fire access routes. DCPL then added a 200-ton over 100-foot ramp supposedly to satisfy ADA needs. As the ANC 1C study notes, three experts agree that this ramp violates many codes. As such, it sets the city up for many lawsuits for ADA violations; these currently tend to result in judgments against DC of several million dollars each. The testimony by DCPL consultants that this ramp is the only way in has been disputed by three architects with ADA expertise; they offer plans that are a million dollars cheaper, one with a simple gradient down two feet to an expanded main entrance at the current ADA door just west of the monumental stairs. The DCPL statement that there is "absolutely no other way" is falsified by five peer-reviewed examples to the contrary.

The eight-alarm Deauville fire two years ago, the largest in DC history, demonstrated that the block of buildings next to and south of the branch library endangers over a thousand lives in the densely-packed high-rise apartment buildings.

That fire spread rapidly, doubling in extent every 150 seconds. Except for a huge amount of water on the apartment

building just north, where objects near the windows were already distorted by the heat, that building would have been lost. According to the fire report, the fire and almost immediately jumped a 18.3 foot gap to destroy the building to the east. Most of the surrounding buildings have a similar structure, many built at the same time by the same architect. Aside from the library itself, all the buildings in this block have one or mostly more fire spread paths less than that jumped by the Deauville fire. This is demonstrated in the attached diagram.

DCPL has ignored the 1D resolutions laying out this threat. ANC 1A as well has passed a resolution asking that the concerns raised in 1C and 1D resolutions be solved.

For the DCPL budget, please include funds and a directive to address 1D's recommendations for a needs assessment and for a redesign that does not endanger hundreds of lives by blocking potential emergency access, that does not harass seniors, toddlers, and the handicapped and risk millions in ADA judgments, and that consider better ways of using the MtP current capital budget to more effectively address our neighbors' needs.

Please include funds and a directive for the Board to independently review plans, respond in full good-faith due diligence to ANC resolutions. We now know that DCPL cannot be trusted to give the whole truth in its testimony, nor to faithfully uphold all laws.

The 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association

**Former Deauville Apartments
Future Monsignor Romero Apartments**

The apartment building at 3145 Mount Pleasant Street was an original historic building before it burned to the ground in March of 2008.

Standing adjacent to other original apartments along Mount Pleasant Street and adjacent to the historic Meridian Hill Baptist Church and less than two hundred feet from the original Carnegie library, our building boasted almost 100 units and was home to a diverse group of families, friends, and neighbors.

My name is Yasmin Romero-Castillo and I have been President of the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association for eight years.

This affidavit serves as notice of concern to be conveyed to DC commissions, boards, panels, and courts that the safety of future 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Apartments (Monsignor Romero) shall not be put at risk again by overcrowded development along this troubled residential and business corridor.

This affidavit also serves as notice that Chris Otten, local organizer with the Ward One Library Coalition, has been a helpful to the residents of the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street in working with us to demonstrate alerts to DC leadership about the concerns regarding this project. We appreciate his help as our civic partner.

The 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association must alert City leadership and the public to the fact that DC Public Library officials have proposed library expansion plans for the Mount Pleasant Library which will hinder emergency response time and access to the rear of our building and to those around us. This does not bode well for our future given what has happened in our past.

The Deauville Apartment building was totally destroyed in a five alarm fire in the late evening of March 12, 2008, displacing more than 200 people. Three years later only the burned shell remains – supported by an iron framing structure. Tragically, the multiple explosions and super-hot and rigorous fire jumped from our building to also destroy the historic Meridian Hill Baptist Church. The cost of this devastation is in the many millions of dollars and the smoke from this tragic fire closed the Mount Pleasant Library for cleaning.

The Deauville Apartment building was totally destroyed in a five alarm fire in the late evening of March 13, 2008, displacing more than 200 people. Three years later only the burned shell remains – supported by an iron framing structure. Tragically, the multiple explosions and super-hot and rigorous fire jumped from our building to also destroy the historic Meridian Hill Baptist Church. The cost of

this devastation is in the many millions of dollars and the smoke from this tragic fire closed the Mount Pleasant Library for cleaning.

I won't soon forget that horrid evening. I was coming home from a local meeting and saw all of the lights and heard sirens. After realizing the building was on fire, my main focus was to help my tenants' escape and find a warm place to stay. We took the elderly and young to Haydee's restaurant. Other businesses opened up their doors to our frightened tenants -- Don Juan's, the Mount Pleasant auto repair shop, and others. The Mayor and Councilmember helped our tenant's find shelter at local hotels.

Since that dreadful March night in 2008, my role has been to keep the 3145 Mount Pleasant Street family somewhat connected and housed locally in anticipation of returning to our new building. After experiencing a fire of such rage, our tenants would like to see a library construction plan which expands services while simultaneously promoting emergency access to the rear of our building and of those around us.

We desire the chance to help our DC Fire Department readily get to people and buildings in distress with emergency equipment, including vehicles, more quickly and in a safer manner than what our brave emergency personnel will have to face if the library is built per the proposed plans.

The library stands at the apex, or gateway, to a residential and business corridor with tall buildings, many of them four-stories and taller. The sides and back of the library opens up into an area known by DCFD as a "trouble spot" for its difficulty in navigation, accessibility, and poor hydrant service.

For example, in November of 2010, a neighbor fell to his death, one other person died from serious burns, an entire family seriously burned with life-threatening injuries, and numerous residents injured in a fire in the building just behind ours named the Sarbin Towers, located at 3132 16th Street.

We have also been informed that on Christmas Day 2010, a fire occurred on the top floor of the Park Marconi, which is located just next to the library and less than 100 feet from our building. According to witnesses, DCFD had trouble finding adequate hydrant service increasing emergency response time.

Library expansion is needed and welcomed, and we commend the District of Columbia Library Board for its vision. However, we strongly believe and have continuously urged that the renovation and expansion be done responsibly.

The proposed construction plans call for adding an rear expansion that extends all the way to the rear lot line, plus constructing a massive and very long accessibility ramp on the Lamont Street side of the library. Both of these project components needlessly block a critical emergency access point to behind the library and adjacent apartments.

Library expansion is needed and welcomed, and we appreciate the District of Columbia's Library Board for its desire to grow Ward One Library services. However, we strongly regret the lack of collaboration with the community on this very important project. We have continuously urged that the renovation and expansion be done responsibly.

The fact of the matter is the proposed library construction plans endanger the lives of almost one-thousand residents who live along this troubled corridor and most unfortunately directly risks the work between our association and the prominent National Housing Trust to bring back affordable housing to where the Deauville once stood.

Opening access up along this central Mount Pleasant residential and business corridor to emergency personnel must be made the priority over out-of-context internal library planning decisions.

We are seeking help to rectify these plans as we want to prevent any additional senseless deaths, injuries, loss of homes and property from occurring because of the failure to act responsibly and now.

The 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants Association asks that City leadership seeks this project be stopped until a more reasonable plan can be deemed safe for our apartment, our neighbors, and Mount Pleasant.

Thank you.

Yasmin Romero-Castillo
President, The 3145 Mount Pleasant Street Tenants' Association
Mount Pleasant ANC Commissioner 1D-01 (2011-2012)
President, CCM de SEEM (Salvadoresnos en el Mundo)

DCRA Stop Work Order Request

To: Nicholas A. Majett, Director DCRA (nicholas.majett@dc.gov)

Don Masoero, DCRA (don.masoero@dc.gov)

From: Evelyn Brewster, Resident and President of the 3150 -- 16th Street Residents' Association Park Marconi.

Date: Tuesday, January 25, 2011

STOP WORK ORDER REQUEST

The residents of the Park Marconi are requesting a stop work order by DCRA to be issued to DC Public Library and their demolition crew until all affected property owners, including apartments and their tenants' associations, condos, homes, and businesses are informed by writing using certified mail, including a copy of the proposed work plan.

DCRA must prevent work from continuing until all surrounding properties are protected, including the foundations and walls of the Park Marconi building which are being threatened by a simple mistake of those operating huge machinery less than a foot away from our building.

And, work shall not commence until DCPL and their demolition team pledges to work within DCRA's time allowance, which we believe starts at 7AM, not 6AM or earlier.

1) Required Protection of Surrounding Properties Not Being Met

Massive excavation machines are as close as one foot away from the Park Marconi building during an excavation process that our building was not noticed by. There is no protection of the foundation and building walls on the north side of our building where these machines are driving and digging. If the operator were to make a mistake during this process, our building is exposed to serious damage as there are no protection devices along our walls.

DC Public Library and it's demolition crew are not following DC Building Code in this regard. Pursuant to DCMR CHAPTER 33A SAFEGUARDS DURING CONSTRUCTION, SECTION 3307A PROTECTION OF ADJOINING PROPERTY 3307.1 Protection required. Adjoining public and private property shall be protected from damage during construction, remodeling or demolition work. Protection must be provided for footings, foundations, party walls, chimneys, skylights, and roofs.

2) Required Notice Not Given

The Park Marconi, and to our knowledge, the surrounding apartment buildings, condos, and homes have not been sent any notice in writing, via USPS mail, to alert us about this very dangerous excavation happening in very tight quarters behind the library and adjacent to our buildings.

Pursuant to DCMR CHAPTER 33A SAFEGUARDS DURING CONSTRUCTION, SECTION 3307A PROTECTION OF ADJOINING PROPERTY, 3307.2 Notification required. The person causing construction, excavation, remodeling or demolition work to be made that will affect

adjoining property, including a lot, building or structure, shall at all times, and at his or her own expense, preserve and protect the adjoining lot, building or structure from damage or injury... The person causing the work shall provide written notice, and a copy of the proposed work plan, to the owner of the adjoining property advising said owner of the intended work and the need for protection for the adjoining property. Upon receipt of notification, it shall be the duty of the owner of the adjoining property to make safe said owner's property, unless the owner provides the person causing the work with written permission (conditional or unconditional) to enter the owner's adjoining property. 1. If the work is non-structural, notification shall be delivered to the adjoining property owner, not less than ten (10) business days prior to the scheduled starting date of the work. 2. If the work involves excavation requiring underpinning or other structural support of the adjoining building or structure, the person causing the work shall notify the adjoining property owner by personal delivery, courier or express mail service, with a copy to the code official, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the proposed starting date. This notification shall include a copy of all documents filed for necessary permits which are relevant to the adjoining property. The adjoining property owner shall have thirty (30) days from the date that the notification was delivered to respond in writing.

3) Work Beginning Illegally Before 7am

Park Marconi residents have been awakened on several mornings long before 7am to loud noises and demolition work. DCPL's demolition crew was also working the morning of the MLK day national holiday, Monday, January 17.

According to DCRA's website >>

<http://dcra.dc.gov/DC/DCRA/Inspections/Construction+Inspections/Appeal+a+Stop+Work+Order>

There is a \$2000 fine (per infraction) for:

- * Work without a permit
- * Work outside the scope of a permit
- * Work before 7 am or after 7 pm Monday through Saturday or any time on Sunday

Residents of 3150 -- 16th Street, NW, WDC 20010, are seeking remedy of the above infractions with a stop work request, until all of the required protection and notice is met.

Please confirm receipt.

Regards,
Evelyn Brewster
301-404-3526

Affidavit of Rosa Rivas-Garcia, ^{PRESIDENT OF} THE ADELANTE MOUNT PLEASANT COOPERATIVE
My name is Rosa Rivas-Garcia. I am legal age years old, and currently reside at
3149 Mount Pleasant St NW APT # 303

Affidavit Deed

- DC Public Library has proposed plans to renovate and expand the Mount Pleasant Library, located at 3160 Lamont Street, NW, Washington, DC.
- The proposed plans call for a three-story expansion off the back of the original library building, extending out all the way to the rear property lot line.
- The proposed expansion will block emergency access from Lamont Street to the rear of the library to our apartment building which is directly adjacent to the library.
- The proposed expansion will result in a lifeless wall, 45 feet high, less than twenty feet from our building, blocking light and air and will reduce the quality of life for our residents.
- There has been no meaningful analysis of how the proposed library expansion will affect the ability of emergency personnel in any emergency situation to rescue people and property of our residents.
- There have been at least two major fires in the past two years along this residential corridor destroying two buildings and damaging a third, plus there was loss of life.
- This corridor is known to the DC Fire Department as a "trouble spot" in terms of the inability of emergency personnel to navigate easily and the lack of adequate hydrant service.
- Residents at 3149 Mount Pleasant Street were dismissed by library and permit officials when raising these concerns.
- Residents in our building and surrounding apartments want the proposed library plans changed to a construction plan that prioritizes safety first, as we believe the proposed library expansion heightens the problem of emergency access to our building and surrounding neighbors.

Washington, DC:

Rosa Rivas-Garcia, being first duly sworn on oath according to law, deposes and says that he/she has read the foregoing AFFIDAVIT OF Rosa Rivas-Garcia, Adelante Cooperative, by his/her subscribed, that the matters stated herein are true to the best of her information, knowledge and belief.

[Signature]
[deponent's signature]

Rosa Rivas-Garcia
[deponent's name]

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 8th day of February, 2011.

[Signature]
[signature of the person authorized to take affidavits]

Notary Public
[title of the person authorized to take affidavits]

My commission expires 12.01.2012

ADELANTE MOUNT PLEASANT COOPERATIVE
3149 Mount Pleasant Street, NW, Washington, DC 200010

February 7, 2011

The Adelante Mount Pleasant Cooperative made a decision at our special membership meeting, on Saturday, January 29, 2011, to join in appeal of a building permit for the Mount Pleasant Library renovation and expansion plans.

We understand the DC Public Library would like to renovate and expand their library building, all the way the rear property line of the library lot, which is adjacent to our apartment lot.

This affidavit serves as notice of concern to be conveyed to DC commissions, boards, panels, and courts that the Adelante Coop is being placed in unnecessary jeopardy.

This affidavit also serves as notice that Chris Otten, a local organizer with the Ward One Library Coalition, continues to be a partner with the residents of the Adelante Mount Pleasant Coop in expressing these concerns to DC leadership and we appreciate his help as our civic partner.

The proposed library plans show a forty-five foot wall less than twenty feet from our building. This will seriously block air and light which this building has had for more than seventy years.

More importantly, the expansion further limits emergency access to our building and those of our neighbors. There have been at least three fires requiring serious response in the past thirty-six months. This area is known as a "trouble spot" by DCFD as we have been witness to neighboring building burn to the ground resulting in millions of dollars of property destroyed by fire, and we have lost two neighbors with several others badly burned and healing.

One week ago, on February 1, 2011, we wanted to participate in the Board of Zoning Adjustment hearing BZA Appeal #18152, regarding the library. We were prevented from going because of a serious scare on that same day when residents noticed black smoke pouring into our building. The Fire Department was dispatched and came to investigate. The smoke was being created by all of the massive machinery, huge back-hoes and dump-trucks, excavating behind our apartment.

We have never received notice of a work plan for the demolition, excavation, and construction for this library. We understand this is a breach of DC regulations. The trucks are coming very close to our buildings without any protection provided in case of a mistake. The work trucks are emitting clouds of toxic air into our lungs.

This is not right. We do not believe DCPL discussed and negotiated plans with the community in good faith. The plans are flawed as they expose our community to greater risk in case of emergency. The plans will be a major nuisance that could result in loss of property and life and at the very least removes important air and light and quality of life for surrounding residents.

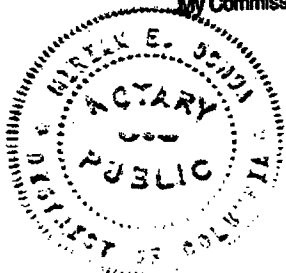
The Adelante Mount Pleasant Cooperative at 3149 Mount Pleasant Street, NW
request that safety be made a priority instead of the arbitrary and
short-sighted expansion plans proposed by DCPL.

Regards,

Mrs. Rosa Rivas, President
Adelante Mount Pleasant Cooperative

Washington, District of Columbia
The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn before
me this 8th day of February, 2011
by Rosa Rivas
Miriam E. Ochoa Notary Public
My commission expires 07-14-2015

MIRIAM E. OCHOA
NOTARY PUBLIC DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
My Commission Expires July 14, 2015



TO:

* Office of the Attorney General
441 4th Street NW, Suite 1100 South
Washington, DC 20001

* Office of Risk Management
Claims Unit
441 4th Street NW, Suite 800 South
Washington, DC 20001

FROM:

* Chris Otten
Lead claimant, Ward One resident, ANC Commissioner-SMD 1C02 (2009-2010), Community
Organizer-Ward One Library Coalition

* Other claimants, directly affected local residents, will join as parties at a future date

RE:

* Appeal of the Mount Pleasant Library Project
* Attachments: (3) Affidavits by affected residents

DATE:

* February 8, 2011

This letter services as notice to the Mayor and Mayor's Office of the Attorney General pursuant to DC Code Division II, Title 12, Chapter 3, (Section 12-309), that a claim is being prepared against the District of Columbia and agents funded by the District of Columbia in their role as service agencies to the residents of the District of Columbia.

This is on ongoing injury claim until problems identified with the Mount Pleasant Library proposed expansion plans and the nuisances they will create are abated.

Abating the problems that will be created if the proposed library plans move forward may save the District of Columbia many millions, perhaps hundreds of millions, of dollars in future personal injury claims.

The Mount Pleasant Library project is located at 3160 Lamont Street, NW in square 2595 on lot 830 in a R-5-D zoning district.

Claimants believe that DC Public Library officials (DCPL) developed construction plans which puts the safety of more than one-thousand DC residents in jeopardy. The plans call for an expansion on the back of the library as depicted on the <http://www.dclibrary.org> website.

The expansion, along with a proposed new accessibility ramp, will forever block a gateway for emergency access to a residential and business corridor that not only houses many people and businesses, but is an historic district of untold value.

Currently, the fire department can access the rear of the library by breaking through some chain link fences. But the library plans will block access with actual walls of the new library addition, and the 7 foot high accessibility ramp and landscaping will further limit any emergency response.

The ADA compliance of the ramp is also at question, with serious cross-slope compliance issues and a reduction in access complaints. Residents with disabilities, the elderly, and frail may never be able to access this public accommodation again if the proposed accessibility ramp is built and they have voiced as such.

Despite the concerns raised by many community groups, experts, and three of four Ward One Advisory Neighborhood Commissions representing more than fifty thousand Ward One residents, the DC Public Library moved forward, side-stepping most of the major concerns, and moved through the process of getting a building permit.

A building permit was granted by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and announced publicly by DCPL on August 17, 2010.

The administrative process by which this permit has been obtained by DCPL has had serious prohibitive flaws with several DC Municipal Regulations being ignored and broken. Since the permit has been granted, DCPL and their work teams have also broken further DCMR administrative rules with regard to the safety of surrounding neighbors.

The claimants, in attempting to meet the notice requirement of 12-309, submit this letter within six months of announcement of the action by DCRA to grant DCPL the permit to build the proposed nuisance plans, which put more residents at risk than the value that the District gains in library services, and hence cannot be considered an institutional necessity.

This is an ongoing injury and an abate-able nuisance and hence a 12-309 could be filed right up to the day DCPL officials shrink the library addition to make room for emergency access behind the library and move the location of accessibility ramp back to the front of the building where it is now. Despite the 12-309 date actually being a moving target, the claimants submit this 12-309 to cover any notice requirements pursuant to DC Code and case law.

Please respond to the lead claimant, Chris Otten as shown below.

Respectfully,

Chris Otten
1830 Belmont Rd NW, WDC, 20009
202-536-4065, chrisotten2@yahoo.com

Cc:

Mrs. Rosa Rivas, 3149 Mount Pleasant Street, WDC, 20010
Mrs. Yasmin Romero, 3145 Mount Pleasant Street, 20010
Mrs. Evelyn Brewster, 3150 16th Street NW, 20010

Appendix Z Board of Zoning Adjustment Appeal No 18152

Appeal of ANC1D Approved

<http://app.dcoz.dc.gov/content/schedule/MonthView.aspx?view=bza&date=6/15/2011>

Zoning Commission and Board of Zoning Adjustment Schedules and Agendas

All Meetings and Hearings are held on the Second Floor in Room 220 South at:

One Judiciary Square
441 4th Street, NW
Washington, DC 2001

6/21/2011 9:30 AM Public Meeting

18152 Appeal of ANC 1D

Case # : 18152

Case Name : Appeal of ANC 1D

Case Summary : (Appeals) Appeal No. 18152 of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D, pursuant to 11 DCMR §§ 3100 and 3101, from an August 17, 2010 decision by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to grant a building permit allowing the renovation and expansion of the existing Mount Pleasant Library in the R-5-D District at premises 3160 16th Street, N.W. (Square 2595, Lot 830).

ANC : 1D

Result : Approved.