

# Government of the District of Columbia


## Department of Transportation



### d. Planning and Sustainability Division

#### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment

**FROM:** Anna Chamberlin, AICP   
Associate Director

**DATE:** January 21, 2022

**SUBJECT:** BZA Case No. 20608 – 403 7<sup>th</sup> Street SE (Southeast Library)

---

#### APPLICATION

District of Columbia (the “Applicant”), pursuant to Title 11 (2016 Zoning Regulations) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR), Subtitle C § 1610.2 and Subtitle X § 901.2, requests a special exception to the lot occupancy requirements of Subtitle C § 1603.4 and an area variance to the pervious surface requirements of Subtitle E § 204.1. The site is located in the RF-1 Zone at 403 7<sup>th</sup> Street SE (Square 875, Lot 1).

#### RECOMMENDATION

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) has reviewed the application materials and has determined that the proposed action will not have adverse impacts on the District’s transportation network. DDOT has no objection to the approval of this application.

#### STREETScape AND PUBLIC REALM

DDOT’s lack of objection to this application should not be viewed as an approval of the public realm design. All elements of the project proposed within District-owned right-of-way require the Applicant to pursue a public space permit through DDOT’s permitting process. The Applicant has an active public space permit application TOPS #379905. As shown in Attachment 1, The public space permit was Approved with Conditions by the Public Space Committee on November 18, 2021 with the following conditions:

1. D Street – Modify entrances particularly to west to reduce change in grade while maintaining sufficient space for public safety reasons.
2. Consider making the façade of enclosing firm end walls of a finished material that is consistent around the building and keep with surrounding neighborhood.

Board of Zoning Adjustment  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.20608  
EXHIBIT NO.21

3. 7<sup>th</sup> Street – PSC is not taking a position on existing landscaping street trees, must continue discussions with the Urban Forestry Division, UFD
4. South Carolina Avenue – Below grade vault for children’s collection is approved subject to standard vault requirements and limitation.
5. The special paving and entrance on South Carolina Avenue are approved at a concept level. Final materials including lighting to be reviewed and approved. Special paving should not extend beyond firm wall.
6. The vestibule is tabled subject to clarification as to whether it is required by the building code; reiteration of a waiver or modification to use public space for a vestibule requires a more complete record.

DDOT expects the adjacent public realm to meet all District standards. The Applicant should refer to Titles 11, 12A, and 24 of the [DCMR](#), the most recent version of DDOT’s [Design and Engineering Manual \(DEM\)](#), and the [Public Realm Design Manual](#) for public space regulations and design guidance. A permit application can be filed through the DDOT [Transportation Online Permitting System](#) (TOPS) website.

#### Attachments

1 – Public Space Committee Approval Letter, 11/18/21

AC:eb

# ATTACHMENT 1

## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SPACE COMMITTEE



Jaspreet Pahwa  
901 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

RE: 403 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SE  
Tracking Number: 379905

Dear Mr. Pahwa:

On November 18, 2021, the District of Columbia Public Space Committee (PSC) **Approved with Conditions** your application for Construction for Excavation: Sheeting and Shoring (for Buildings), Vaults L' x W', Fixture: Benches, Bike Racks: DDOT Standard, Retaining Wall to 42", Wall (Exception over 42"), Landscaping: Stormwater Management (serve public), Tree Planting, Tree Removal, Paving: Curb and Gutters, Driveway Close Existing, Leadwalk Only, Sidewalks, Projections: Areaway Entrance, Canopy in public space under the following conditions:

1. D Street – Modify entrances particularly to west to reduce change in grade while maintaining sufficient space for public safety reasons.
2. Consider making the façade of enclosing firm end walls of a finished material that is consistent around the building and keep with surrounding neighborhood.
3. 7<sup>th</sup> Street – PSC is not taking a position on existing landscaping street trees, must continue discussions with the Urban Forestry Division, UFD
4. South Carolina Avenue – Below grade vault for children's collection is approved subject to standard vault requirements and limitation.
5. The special paving and entrance on South Carolina Avenue are approved at a concept level. Final materials including lighting to be reviewed and approved. Special paving should not extend beyond firm wall.
6. The vestibule is tabled subject to clarification as to whether it is required by the building code; reiteration of a waiver or modification to use public space for a vestibule requires a more complete record.

Overall Site: Change finish of the berm walls that band the sidewalk around the entire property and the retaining walls at the entrance at D Street to a material that is consistent around the building and keeping with the character of the surrounding neighborhood with the exception of main entrance. The finish for the retaining walls at the entrance will highlight its status as the main entrance. Failure to meet all requirements, modifications, and conditions set out in application and this approval; fully execute the application; and obtain the issued permit within six (6) months of the date of this letter will result in the cancellation of your application. If your application is cancelled, it may be permanently withdrawn from future consideration by the Public Space Committee; you will be required to restart the process and submit a new application for the requested activity in the District's Public Space. If you require further assistance with the processing of this application, please schedule an appointment with your assigned Technician, Ms. Catrina Felder at 202-442-4960 or by email at [catrina.felder@dc.gov](mailto:catrina.felder@dc.gov). Thank you for your commitment to improving the District of Columbia's Public Space!

Sincerely,

, for

Elliott Maurice Garrett  
Executive Secretary, PSC  
ANC-1C07