ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DISTRICT OF COLUMBA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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2003 JAN 16 AM 10:11

The District of Columbia Public Library (DCPL), the Board of Trustees, Director and staff have advocated the need for a comprehensive plan to embody their vision of compelling library services from newly renovated and re-constructed state-of-the-art libraries. As a consequence in Fiscal Year 2002, DCPL developed a Capital Construction/Renovation Master Plan for the twenty-one (21) branch libraries in its system. Superior library services and facilities are particularly crucial for realizing the library's goals of (1) providing the citizens of the District of Columbia with inviting library facilities that are safe, comfortable and inspire reading, learning and personal success and (2) citizens will find a variety of environments that are conducive to reading, research and idea exchange.

At present the system's buildings do not meet the goals and mission of the library because of several deficiencies, including inadequate technological infrastructure, outdated mechanical systems, ineffective use of space and poorly coordinated services. Based on the results of a DCPL survey, the deteriorating buildings, equipment and furnishings are viewed as weaknesses and decaying buildings as a threat.

Formerly, public libraries were permitted as government uses on City or Federal property and not subject to zoning; however, with the passage of the 1990 legislation requiring city property to be subject to zoning, public libraries in residential zoning districts became non-conforming uses. All of DCPL's library branches are in residential zoning districts. In order for DCPL to begin the implementation of its Construction/Renovation Master Plan for the branch libraries, passage of the proposed text amendment to allow for "public libraries" to be permitted as a matter of right within all residential and commercial zoning districts is crucial.

DCPL's requests the Commission's approval of the proposed Text Amendment so the agency can move forward with providing the communities and citizens of the District of Columbia with twenty-first century, state-of-the-art public libraries and buildings that are no longer viewed as a threat to our patrons.

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
Case 03-10
Exhibit 12

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.03-10
EXHIBIT NO.12