
Letter of Support

From Brenda Richardson <brendarichardson724@gmail.com>

Date Tue 2/10/2026 1:08 PM

To DCOZ - ZC Submissions (DCOZ) <DCOZ-ZCSubmissions@dc.gov>

Cc Waters, Monisa (DCPL) <monisa.waters@dc.gov>; Pahwa, Jaspreet (DCPL) <jaspreet.pahwa@dc.gov>; Saccocio, Martha (DCPL) <martha.saccocio@dc.gov>; Dure, Samantha (DCPL) <samantha.dure@dc.gov>

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D.C. Zoning Commission

441 4th Street, N.W., Suite 200-S

Washington, DC 20001

Attn: ZCSubmissions@DC.gov

Re: Z.C. Case No. 12-08E: Community Member Letter of Support for Approval of a Text Amendment to Subtitle K § 605.1, St. Elizabeth's East Campus Zones

Dear Chairman Hood and Members of the Commission:

I, Brenda Lee Richardson, a Ward 8 resident, community member and President of the 'Friends of the Parklands-Turner Library' and have been at the table for this library project from the earliest planning conversations in 2022 through the current design phase. I have participated in discussions with DC Public Library staff and my fellow community members to help shape the vision for a full-service branch that reflects our community's needs — welcoming spaces for children and teens, flexible meeting rooms, access to technology, and areas for study and gathering.

I fully support the proposed Text Amendment to Subtitle K § 605.1 to remove the ten-foot (10 ft.) front setback requirement. The library's footprint has been carefully designed around existing transit infrastructure — WMATA escalator, elevator, ventilation shafts, and other operational elements that must remain functional and accessible alongside the proposed library. These constraints are significant, and the current design integrates them responsibly.

Requiring the ten-foot setback would result in a reduction of the building's footprint, thereby eliminating or diminishing key community-focused functions that have been prioritized through years of collaboration. These bespoke spaces include two courtyards, one for children and one for adults, a dedicated teen space, a makerspace and a recording studio. The requested

flexibility allows the project to move forward without sacrificing the spaces and services the community has helped define.

This library represents years of sustained community involvement and advocacy. I strongly support the proposed amendment and respectfully urge its approval so this long-awaited resource can finally serve our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Brenda Lee Richardson

CC: Monisa Waters, Community Engagement Specialist, DC Public Library

Samantha Dure, PM, Capital Planning & Construction, DC Public Library

Martha Saccocio, Director of Community Engagement, DC Public Library

Jaspreet Pahwa, Director, Capital Planning & Construction, DC Public Library