

From: [Mary Kate Cranston](#)
To: [DCOZ - ZC Submissions \(DCOZ\)](#)
Cc: [Schellin, Sharon \(DCOZ\); ccdc...@gmail.com](#)
Subject: Chevy Chase Land Grab -- Zoning Case 23-25
Date: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 9:55:00 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Some people who received this message don't often get email from mkc0108@verizon.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Commissioners:

Zoning case 23-25 was set down improperly; Chevy Chase residents deserve their rights to a contested case.

1- I am opposed to giving private developers building rights on public lands, still used for public use. Again, it is public land being given away to the developers. No consideration is being given to the community or surrounding businesses. It is all about money for the developers.

The city should consider building housing over on the vacant lot where Lord & Taylor used to be in business. That location is closer to the Metro and bus lines.

2- I am opposed to an RFP process that was flawed, proposing an outsized 80 foot building height and 60% lot coverage; ignoring and thus eliminating the ball court, children's play area, reading area outside the library and community center and all possible on-site parking.

These are important community resources that will be lost in the process, and their unique role in drawing together diverse users in age, gender and race in a unique way. At a time when we need to encourage reading in our youth these amenities soften what can become a sterile library experience for young readers. At a time of an aging population demographic we need to preserve and offer additional opportunities for social engagement and fitness.

Architects have gone on the record about how it is structurally a bad idea to build housing on top of a library. When new libraries were built in Cleveland Park and Tenleytown there was never talk or consideration of building condos on top of those libraries. Just look to the record of the library on M Street NW and see what structural problems have occurred.

3- I fear for our small businesses given that the RFP includes the potential commercial use of the space. I have no problem with mixed use development to increase the vitality of Chevy Chase DC, but the zoning proposed is completely out of sync with existing land uses and the neighborhood and will NOT result in more affordable housing. The block across from the Wells Fargo Bank next to the bus terminal has not been successful for the small businesses attempting to locate there and would be ideal for low rise mixed use as would the Safeway property. We do not

ZONING COMMISSION
District of Columbia
CASE NO.23-25
EXHIBIT NO.329

need to give away public land that can never be reclaimed.

By passing the proposed rezoning you are providing a gift of public land - the Chevy Chase Commons Park, Library and Community Center - to developers for their personal profit. This rezoning does nothing to lower housing costs in DC. You will, by upzoning Chevy Chase, lose 1000s of Naturally Occurring Affordable Homes in rent-controlled buildings. Our Chevy Chase workforce - teachers, police, retail workers, etc. - will be displaced by your actions, as workforce housing has been lost in every other densified and gentrified DC neighborhood. You will displace the Chevy Chase small businesses just as small business have been lost in every other densified and gentrified DC neighborhood. You will harm the residents of the Chevy Chase community with incalculable loss, if you vote for upzoning Chevy Chase.

History has shown that once this public land has been turned over to private developers they will be charging high rents and then turn around and sell the development at a substantial profit. The developers do not live here. They have no stake in the quality of life in the community. As I said previously, for the developers it is all about the money and getting around the process.

Sincerely,
Mary Kate Cranston
2946 Legation St NW
Washington, DC. 20015