Coalition for Smarter Growth
DC • MD • VA

Tips for testifying in support of affordable mixed-income at the Chevy Chase Civic Core



Support for DC Council bill: B26-0801 - Chevy Chase Civic Site Surplus Declaration and Disposition Approval Act of 2026

Steps to testifying:

1. Sign up to testify – virtually or in person. Hearing dates:
    a. Dec. 3, 11 a.m., Facilities Committee, Councilmember **Janeese Lewis George**, chair, sign up deadline: Dec. 2.
    b. Nov. 12, 10 a.m., Human Services Committee, Councilmember **Matt Frumin**, chair. Sign up deadline: Nov. 11.
2. Submit written comments: Submit your written testimony in advance of the hearing date. If you already sent a letter, you can consider it done. You can also submit testimony on the Council sign up page. .
3. Login with the link sent or arrive in person at 1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW.

Preparing your testimony

- Plan to speak for 3 minutes, about 400 words.

- First, state that you generally ***support*** B26-801. If you want to make suggestions for how to improve the proposal, be sure to always declare your overall support, and then say you have suggestions to make it even better.
- Talk about the issue from your own personal perspective.
- Always be polite and formal, and only speak for your allotted 3 minutes.
- Only answer questions if asked directly by a Councilmember.

General talking points to be effective

- **Opening paragraph: Who are you?**

  Good morning/afternoon, my name is _____. I live in/am a longtime resident of/recent arrival in the Chevy Chase neighborhood.

- **Overall statement of support for the redevelopment proposal.**

  I am here to express my strong support for this bill to build affordable mixed income housing along with a new library, community center and public outdoor space at the Chevy Chase Civic Core.
  or
  I support this proposal because Chevy Chase should be more inclusive and offer not only a great new library and community center, but also affordable mixed-income housing for the many people who would like to live here and enjoy the benefits of this nice neighborhood…

- **Why am I here? What motivates me? Make it personal.**

  - Do you live nearby? -- Talk about what it means to you to have a more inclusive neighborhood. Mention if you participated in planning for the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan, the rezoning of this part of Conn. Av., community meetings about the library site.
  - Do you live somewhere else? Talk about how Chevy Chase is a high-cost area that is not affordable to many DC families, especially those who are African American or other people of color. Talk about why high-opportunity neighborhoods like Chevy Chase in particular should

be more inclusive and make it easier to build dedicated affordable housing.
- Say something about how you feel about the city or your neighborhood or why this issue is particularly important to you personally.
- Conclude by again urging that the DC Council support this bill and ensure that the affordable housing is built as a part of these new community facilities.

Model Testimony:

Testimony in support of Council bill: B26-0801 -
Chevy Chase Civic Site Surplus Declaration & Disposition Approval Act of 2026

before the Hon. Janeese Lewis George, Chair
Facilities Committee, Council of the District of Columbia
December 3, 2026

[OR before the Hon. Matt Frumin, Chair
Human Services Committee
Council of the District of Columbia
November 12, 2026]

by [your name] Jane Q. Public
[your address] 6000 Conn. Ave., NW, Washington DC 20015

[OVERALL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT]
My name is Jane Q. Public. I am a longtime resident of Chevy Chase/DC/area. I am testifying today because I feel strongly that this proposal - to add 90 affordable homes as part of 177 total apartments to the library site is a rare opportunity to build a more inclusive Chevy Chase. I've lived in Chevy Chase for XX years, and participated in a number of the planning, zoning, and project meetings related to the library/community center site. I'm so excited we are finally here - actually about to build new affordable homes in Chevy Chase.

[URGENCY]
We've talked and planned for years about how the library site was a unique opportunity to bring affordable homes to this neighborhood. The public land

offers the chance to build housing where land costs would otherwise make it impossible. It's time to act..

[WHY THIS MATTERS TO ME & MY COMMUNITY]
I believe it's important to stand up for an inclusive neighborhood where people of different incomes have the chance to benefit from all the good things about this neighborhood. Adding affordable and mixed income housing to this public site is a rare opportunity to make housing affordable to those who are priced out. Low income working people can't afford to live here and raise their children here. But this proposal gives some people that chance. Ward 3 lags behind the rest of DC in building new affordable homes. This is an important chance to do it. This housing proposal helps meet more of our housing needs and address the larger goal of housing equity.

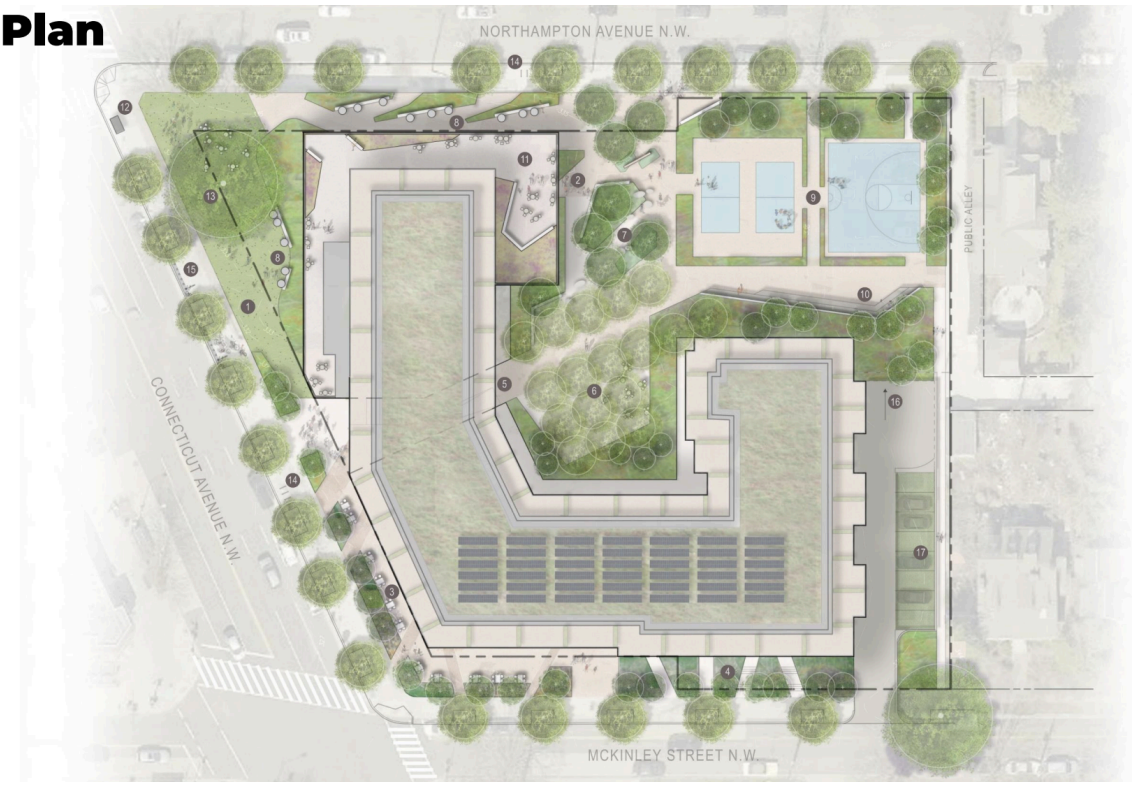
We've been here before. In nearby Tenleytown, the library was planned to be rebuilt with affordable mixed-income housing, but then the opponents managed to kill the plan, and only a library was built. What a loss. DC needs to make the most of its rare public land -- especially in expensive areas like Ward 3. Chevy Chase is a lovely community, but it's exclusive. This proposal for more housing and more inclusive housing enriches the community with a greater diversity of residents.

[CONCLUSION]
I urge you to quickly pass this bill to build mixed income housing along with a new library, community center, and public play and gathering spaces.

Thank you.

What to see the plans? Get the details?

Site Plan



Here are the renderings of the plan.

Overall plan is 177 dwelling units, with over 50% affordable, along with a new library, community center, play and gathering spaces, and usable public outdoor spaces.

Overall: 266,561 gross square feet mixed-use building, with multiple integrated uses, an underground parking garage, and approximately 55,000 gross square feet of outdoor space, at 5601 & 5625 Connecticut Ave NW

The civic-owned components of the Project will consist of

- approximately 23,500 gross square foot new library,
- approximately 21,600 gross square foot new community center
- approximately 55,000 gross square feet of community open space, and
- approximately 46 parking spaces.

The privately owned components of the development will include

- approximately 177 units of rental, mixed-income housing, totaling approximately 213,000 gross square feet,
- approximately 8,000 of ground-floor retail, and
- approximately 101 parking spaces.

Chevy Chase Civic Site Redevelopment ADU and market unit mix

Unit Type	Approx % of Units	Approx. Avg. Unit NSF	30% MFI	50% MFI	80% MFI	Market Rate	Total Units
Studio	15%	547	4	4	5	13	26
1 BR	40%	699	11	11	14	34	70
2 BR	37%	1,007	10	10	13	32	65
3 BR	9%	1,229	2	2	4	8	16
Total	**100%**	**838 NSF**	**27**	**27**	**36**	87	**177**
			15%	**15%**	**20%**	**50%**	**100%**

Source: B26-801

Questions? Contact us: cheryl@smartergrowth.net
11/5/26