

**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8E  
Resolution Regarding the Washington Highlands Library Project**

- Whereas, the Washington Highlands Library is the only full-service library serving all of Ward Eight, including ANC-8E constituents, and
- Whereas, DC Public Library (DCPL) wants to demolish and rebuild Ward Eight's only full-service library for more than ten million dollars, and
- Whereas, the design process used by DCPL has left out meaningful community input despite residents throughout Ward Eight expressing serious concerns with the proposed library designs, and
- Whereas, DCPL has never presented the proposed library design plans or project timelines in any meaningful or formal manner to any ANC Commission in Ward Eight, and
- Whereas, DCPL has produced only one public report about the construction issues pertaining to this project – a renovation study showing the library can be upgraded and adaptively reused saving nearly two million dollars, and
- Whereas, DCPL's proposed library design seeks to remove more than half of the current on-site parking hence raising concern for Ward Eight seniors/disabled, plus the designs call for unnecessary niches and outdoor courts that residents are concerned would create unsecured spaces on the exterior of the new library, and
- Whereas, the proposed demolition of the current Washington Highlands Library may negatively impact the surrounding Ward Eight neighborhoods and threaten damage to nearby homes sitting up on the hill behind the library. DCPL has provided no public report to assuage these concerns and only given weak verbal assurances to local homeowners, and
- Whereas, the proposed library design plans are incongruous with the the look and feel of Ward Eight and it's surrounding neighborhoods, plus the design does *not* boast expandability as a key characteristic, and
- Whereas, several Ward Eight Advisory Neighborhood Commissions have passed motions or resolutions about the poor design process, and asking for better engagement to seriously analyze the idea of adaptively reusing and upgrading the current library building.

***Therefore be it resolved,***

- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8E, declares the library design process being used by DC Public Libraries regarding the Washington Highlands Library project as one which is poor and unfortunately not driven by the desires of Ward Eight residents, and
- *Be it further resolved*, that ANC-8E supports our Ward Eight Commissioner colleagues in asking DCPL to halt the library design process until all Ward Eight ANC's are meaningful engaged and presented with the designs so to discuss alternatives and give “great weight” advisement, and
- *Be it further resolved*, that ANC-8E seeks DCPL to “adaptively reuse” the current building -- renovate, retrofit, upgrade, and add another floor. Doing so will help save millions of dollars, be eco-friendly, and to support the neighbors living in Ward Eight who want to see the same all the while upholding DCPL's pre-scripted Library Program.

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***Passed unanimously, ANC-8E Commissioners September 15, 2009***