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3G01- Lisa Gore
3G02- Bruce Sherman, Treasurer
3G03- Carol Grunewald, Secretary
3G04- Laura Phinizy, Chair
3G05- Karrenthya Simmons
3G06- Peter Gosselin
3G07- Elizabeth Nagy, Vice-Chair



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Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G
Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

A Resolution Urging the District of Columbia Public Schools to Explore Acquisition or Lease of the Episcopal Center for Children Property to Preserve Educational Use and Expand Early Childhood Capacity Serving Lafayette Elementary School

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3/4G represents residents of the Chevy Chase neighborhood of Washington, DC, including families served by Lafayette Elementary School;

WHEREAS, Lafayette Elementary School currently enrolls approximately 923 students in grades PK–5 and is the largest elementary school in the District of Columbia Public Schools system, and its strong reputation and central role in the community contribute significantly to the stability and vitality of the Chevy Chase neighborhood;

WHEREAS, following its 2015 modernization Lafayette Elementary School was reported by DC Public Schools (DCPS) to have a capacity of approximately 805 students, which increased to 873 students after three basement classrooms were added in 2020;

WHEREAS, DCPS subsequently reported the school’s capacity as 978 students beginning in School Year 2022–2023, despite no documented expansion of the building’s physical footprint since the 2020 classroom addition;

WHEREAS, Lafayette Elementary School does not currently offer a Pre-K3 program and access to Pre-K4 operates through the District’s lottery system, meaning children living within the Lafayette boundary do not have guaranteed placement;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has made significant investments in universal access to high-quality early childhood education, including universal Pre-K for three- and four-year-olds;

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WHEREAS, the Episcopal Center for Children (ECC) operated a therapeutic day school on the Utah Avenue campus for many decades before closing that program at the end of the 2018–2019 school year;

WHEREAS, after ECC’s school program closed, ANC 3/4G explored whether the property could support expanded DC Public Schools capacity serving the Lafayette community, although DCPS did not pursue the opportunity at that time;

WHEREAS, the property at 5901 Utah Avenue NW—long used for early childhood education—has now returned to the market after Maret School declined its option to purchase the site, and ECC leadership has indicated willingness to consider interest from DCPS; and

WHEREAS, land adjacent to the ECC property was developed into Barrett Fields in part to allow DCPS students to use the fields during school hours, making the site particularly well suited for early childhood programming and representing a rare opportunity to expand educational capacity using an existing educational facility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3/4G calls upon DC Public Schools and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education to promptly engage with the Episcopal Center for Children and its representatives or broker to explore potential purchase, lease, or partnership options for the property at 5901 Utah Avenue NW;
- ANC 3/4G urges DCPS to evaluate the ECC property as a satellite campus or early childhood annex serving Pre-K and early elementary grades within the Lafayette Elementary School boundary;
- ANC 3/4G requests DCPS and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education conduct and publicly share a preliminary feasibility assessment of the ECC property within 90 days;
- ANC 3/4G further requests that DCPS or the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education brief ANC 3/4G within 90 days regarding the District’s evaluation of the ECC property and any steps taken to explore potential acquisition, lease, or partnership opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chair of ANC 3/4G and the Commissioner representing Single Member District 3/4G02 are designated as the Commission’s representatives for communications with District agencies and stakeholders regarding this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chancellor of DC Public Schools, the Deputy Mayor for Education, the Ward 3 and 4 Councilmembers, relevant members of the State Board of Education, and the Chair of the DC Council Committee on Education.

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Adopted by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3/4G at a duly noticed public meeting on March 23, 2026, with a quorum present, by a vote of ___ Yes, ___ No, ___ Abstain.