

April 26, 2018

Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh
Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 108
Washington, DC 20004
VIA e-mail: mcheh@dccouncil.us

Dear Chair Cheh:

Thank you very much for your commitment in the DC Council's FY18 budget process to include \$500,000 for the renovation of the Potomac Avenue SE triangle parks

(Reservations 253 and 254). As you may recall, many residents of our single member district (SMD) wrote to you regarding the need to renovate these parks toward the goal of community-building and public safety. Our request was supported by both Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and 1D MPD Commander Morgan Kane. This renovation will be a terrific investment for our community to mobilize these parks toward active and positive uses – thank you again!

With the FY18 commitment of \$500,000, our community worked with the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) on a comprehensive design process. We have had multiple community meetings over the past 1.5 years, including with members of the Potomac Gardens and Hopkins public housing complexes in our SMD. We worked to ensure that the renovation designs for these parks were developed with the input of **as many diverse voices as possible** and would create spaces where **everyone** in our neighborhood would be welcome and excited to engage. **The final DPR designs have strong community and ANC 6B support** (see final ANC 6B letter of support, attached).

Key elements of the final park designs include the following:

- Reservation 253:
 - Kids' splash pad (strongly requested by the community);
 - Chess and checker tables;
 - Flower garden; and
 - Artistic neighborhood welcome sign.
- Reservation 254:
 - Kids' recreation area;
 - Adult outdoor fitness equipment;
 - Picnic tables;
 - Chess and checker tables;
 - Open grass space; and
 - Art piece with a theme to tie the parks together.

The recent cost estimates to implement these final community-supported designs indicate that approximately \$600,000 more will be needed in the FY19 budget to complete the renovations of

both of these parks. We believe that to adequately activate the parks and improve the safety of the neighborhood, **both parks need to be developed simultaneously and sufficiently.**

We would like to humbly request that an **additional \$600,000 be included in your committee's FY19 budget to complete these community-driven, ANC-supported renovation designs for the Potomac Ave SE triangle parks.** We truly appreciate your support in the past and look forward to completing this project in a timely manner to the satisfaction of our whole community.

Sincerely,



Aimee M. Grace, MD, MPH, FAAP
Former ANC 6B07 Commissioner



Kelly G. Waud
ANC 6B07 Commissioner

Enclosure: ANC 6B letter of support (February 22, 2018) for final DPR designs of Potomac Ave SE triangle parks

Cc: Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen