



**CHEVY CHASE FORWARD**  
Building Community, Bridging Divides



April 30, 2026

The Honorable Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20004  
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Dear Mayor Bowser:

We are a coalition of grassroots citizens groups advocating for racial and social equity and the creation of safe, affordable housing for residents at all income levels in Washington, DC. Because the Civic Core redevelopment is a critical opportunity to advance these goals, our coalition is writing with a strong, united ask: **we urge you to support the original Rift Valley development plan for the Chevy Chase Civic Core.**

Together, we represent residents of Chevy Chase and patrons of its Civic Core who support building housing alongside a new library and community center on this public land. We also support inclusion of a substantial proportion of income-targeted units across a range of household incomes. These steps will increase housing supply and help address the housing affordability crisis in a high-amenity neighborhood.

You have previously committed to these goals and they are consistent with Rift Valley's original proposal, as well. **Therefore, our coalition strongly supports reinstating the original Rift Valley proposal, specifically:**

- **Increasing the number of subsidized and market rate housing units.** The current proposal reduces the total number of units from 206 to 177, and has only the bare minimum of required affordable housing (30%, or 54 units) while the original proposal included 137 income restricted units – roughly 1/3 affordable to households up to 50% of median family income (MFI) and 1/3 affordable to households up to 80% MFI (so-called workforce housing):
  - The Civic Core presents a unique opportunity for the District to make a meaningful impact on the supply of affordable housing in the Rock Creek West planning area which has lagged well behind the rest of the city. The impact will be felt for generations to come. All eight responses to the Civic Core RFP offered more than 100 units of deeply affordable and workforce housing.

- Restoring the floor that was dropped from the original proposal would allow for a greater number of units without sacrificing open space. Doing so would be consistent with zoning, and at 80 feet, would still be several floors lower than similar neighborhood apartment buildings located several blocks south of this site along Connecticut Avenue.
- **Restoring workforce housing to the mix.** We believe that the ideal mix of units on this site includes deeply affordable, workforce, and market rate units; you, too, have previously emphasized the importance of including workforce housing here, an approach that would permit people who already work in Chevy Chase to live here as well.

Thank you for your time and attention to this generational opportunity. We urgently request a meeting with you, DMPED leadership, and our coalition partners to ensure the Civic Core project maximizes its potential to meet the pressing housing needs of our city. We look forward to a productive conversation to secure a truly equitable development. A coalition partner will be in touch with your office shortly to schedule our meeting.

Respectfully,

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