Resolution to Support the Full Modernization of Garrison Elementary School

WHEREAS, Garrison Elementary School serves residents of ANC 1B and DCPS designates a number of families in ANC1B to Garrison as their school of right;

WHEREAS, the communities within 1B are working together to make our neighborhood a place where families want to stay and raise their children, and having a system of high quality, matter of right DCPS community schools for all 1B residents is essential to that goal and to having well rounded communities;

WHEREAS, Garrison has an active ParentTeacher Association (PTA), strong partnerships with local community organizations, outreach efforts to prospective parents, and is working directly with DCPS to improve the school;

WHEREAS, as of today within Garrison’s boundary there are 499 elementary school aged children and the DC Office of Planning projects there will be 998 in 2022;

WHEREAS, the population in the neighborhood surrounding Garrison is expected to be one of the densest in the District and the redesign and refurbishment of the 3.5 acres of grounds at Garrison WILL greatly improve the quality of life for all of our residents;

WHEREAS, Garrison has not undergone a single renovation since opening in 1964, causing it to have one of the lowest educational facilities effectiveness scores (36%) as rated by the DME 2013 Public Education Master Facilities Plan, preventing our teachers from teaching and our students from learning;

WHEREAS, the DME 2013 Public Education Master Facilities Plan defines the Shaw/Logan Circle neighborhood as one of the “areas of greatest need” for strategic capital investment, recommends for the short term targeting capital resources for areas with the greatest need of improvement in facility condition and quality that also have large school aged populations and low enrollment, and recommends for the long term to fully modernize certain facilities in clusters of greatest need;

WHEREAS, capital investment in Garrison has been too often postponed and curtailed, and is long overdue in order to meet population growth in the area and to ensure the diversity, vitality, and coherence of our community.

WHEREAS, according to DGS and DCPS the FY2016 budget currently allocated to Garrison does not allow for a full modernization of the school building and grounds,

WHEREAS, in an important step towards making tax dollars go further/reducing inefficiencies in modernizations and producing better planned and built school facilities, the Mayor has pledged to put an end to the partial modernization of DC schools, and has increased capital spending to provide for full modernizations of the currently unmodernized school buildings;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: ANC 1B recommends that Garrison be made whole and that sufficient money be allocated to Garrison in FY2017 to allow for a complete, onetime modernization of both the school building and its grounds, including adequate space for community programming, by the end of FY2017.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT: The Chair or any Commissioner as delegate of the Chair, shall be authorized to communicate this resolution to the Mayor and testify before the members of the Council of the District of Columbia.

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Certification:
After providing sufficient notice for and with a quorum of 9 Commissioners present at its April 7, 2016, meeting, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B voted, with 9 Yea's, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution.

James A. Turner
Chair ANC 1B, Commissioner SMD 1B09

LaKisha Brown
Secretary ANC 1B, Commissioner SMD 1B04