

Resolution of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee

A Senior Wellness Center for Ward 3

Passed on 11/18/2021

Because social isolation is a problem for older adults that affects both physical and mental health and is linked to quicker cognitive decline;

Because more than half of DC's older adults (age 60 and over) live alone, running a greater risk of social isolation;

Because Senior Wellness Centers are a significant element in the District's strategy for addressing social isolation among older adults;

Because the Department of Aging and Community Living operates Senior Wellness Centers in Wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 while sponsoring dispersed wellness activities for Wards 2 and 3 in libraries, recreation centers, and online through AroundTownDC;

Because AroundTownDC, while offering quality programs, does not provide a physical gathering space for seniors;

Because a Senior Wellness Center has a permanent staff that can observe changes in the health of seniors;

Because a Senior Wellness Center provides opportunities for other programs and organizations serving seniors to co-locate;

Because Ward 3 has a high concentration of seniors, with about 23% of the Ward 3 population age 60 and over compared to about 17% District-wide (2019 census data);

Because there are commercial spaces in Ward 3 that are unoccupied or only partially occupied; and

Because development projects are being considered in neighborhoods throughout Ward 3.

Therefore, we

- call on the DC Council to fund a feasibility study exploring options for a physical Senior Wellness Center in Ward 3 as a first step to developing a Senior Wellness Center and
- urge the Department of Aging and Community Living to identify funds in the current fiscal year budget that could be used to initiate such a feasibility study.

The Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee or the Chair's designee(s) are authorized to transmit, testify to, publicize, and otherwise carry out this resolution.

Passed by:

THE WARD THREE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE