

SUBTITLE H. WARD 4 LIBRARIES

Sec. 4071. Short title. This subtitle may be cited as the “Ward 4 Libraries Act of 2023”.

Sec. 4072. (a)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no public funds shall be used to relocate or close the Juanita E. Thornton-Shepherd Park Branch of the District of Columbia Public Library; provided, that this prohibition shall not apply to a temporary relocation or closure for the purpose of modernizing, renovating, improving, or maintaining the library facility.

(2) For purposes of this subtitle, the term “public funds” includes federal, local, and capital funds.

(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Mayor or a subordinate executive branch agency designated by the Mayor (“Mayor’s designee”) shall be authorized to use funds appropriated for capital project SPL37 to acquire real property that is suitable for development of a new full-service branch library to address a library service gap in Brightwood Park and Manor Park, as identified in the District of Columbia Public Library’s facilities master plan for 2021-2030; provided, that the real property be located within one-half mile of the portion of Kennedy Street, NW, situated between 13th Street, NW, and Kansas Avenue, NW.

(2) Beginning June 1, 2024, and by June 1 of each year thereafter until acquisition of the real property described in this subsection is complete, the Mayor or the Mayor’s designee shall deliver a written report on the status of the acquisition to the Council and Ward 4 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

(3) Until acquisition of the real property described in this subsection is complete, all amounts appropriated as funded capital allotments to project SPL37 shall not be reprogrammed to any other projects.

(c) The Mayor may exercise eminent domain in accordance with the procedures set forth in Subchapter II of Chapter 13 of Title 16 of the District of Columbia Official Code to acquire real property suitable for development of a new full-service branch library described in subsection (b) of this section.