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Library Research Award Statement: Resources and Research Consultations in the Development of *Histories of Privatization*

The development of my paper, "Histories of Privatization: Examining Culture, Legal Conflict, and Economic Transformation at Adams Morgan Plaza in Washington, DC," relied significantly on the advanced library resources available at Columbia University, as well as expert research support. Funded and spearheaded through a Research Fellowship at the Eric H. Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, this project required a multi-disciplinary approach that blended historical inquiry, legal analysis, and contemporary economic study. To achieve the breadth and depth necessary, I extensively utilized the interlibrary loan system and benefited from a personalized research consultation with Research Librarian Sydni Meyer.

Early in the research process, it became evident that the Columbia Libraries' internal holdings, while extensive, could not independently supply all the sources critical to my investigation. Much of the material documenting the early history of the Adams Morgan neighborhood, as well as detailed coverage of the Adams Morgan Plaza controversy, existed in regionally published books, local archives, and legal filings not readily accessible through conventional library systems. Through the interlibrary loan service, I was able to obtain several key resources, including *Adams Morgan: Then and Now* by Celestino Zapata and Josh Gibson, a pivotal photographic history that provided essential context. I also used the book *Turf Wars* by Gabriela Gahlia Modan to understand the deep history of linguistic and cultural transformation endemic to my research area. Both these sources proved critical and complemented my analysis of older *Washingtonian* articles and court filings from the District of Columbia Superior Court and Court of Appeals, which were instrumental in reconstructing the legal timeline of the Adams Morgan Plaza dispute.

Columbia's rich array of primary source databases and partnerships with the Library of Congress enabled me to build a comprehensive archive of primary and secondary sources that grounded my analysis of both the historical and contemporary dimensions of the Plaza. Particularly for rare or difficult-to-access materials such as original easement letters, city planning proposals, and news articles documenting early community protests, databases proved indispensable. Without access to these documents, many aspects of the Plaza's history—especially its contested ownership and communal importance—would have remained incomplete in my research.

In addition to material acquisition, the structure and methodology of my research were substantially enhanced through a consultation with Research Librarian Sydni Meyer. Recognizing the complexity of my project, which spanned urban history, civil rights, and economic geography, my cohort and advisors scheduled a meeting early on. During this meeting, Ms. Meyer provided critical guidance on how to efficiently identify and access multidisciplinary sources. She introduced me to HeinOnline

for legal research, ProQuest Historical Newspapers for locating archival news coverage, and the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) portal for detailed demographic and economic data—resources that collectively shaped the major methodological pillars of the paper.

Moreover, Ms. Meyer helped refine my research strategies by suggesting the use of controlled vocabulary searches, which greatly improved the precision of my results when searching for topics such as zoning policy, public easements, and historic preservation within urban spaces. She also advised on government document repositories and guided me toward relevant municipal reports and local historical archives. The techniques and tools she recommended not only improved the efficiency of my research process but also ensured the credibility and depth of my evidence base.

In terms of organizational support, Ms. Meyer introduced me to citation management software, specifically Zotero, to systematically collect and categorize my sources by theme. This allowed me to maintain rigorous source tracking and facilitated easier cross-referencing of historical events, legal rulings, and socioeconomic data throughout the drafting process. Establishing a coherent bibliographic framework early in the project ultimately enhanced the analytical coherence of the final paper.

The Holder Initiative's emphasis on civil rights, public policy, and the defense of community spaces framed my research questions throughout the project. I sought to examine not only the history of Adams Morgan Plaza but also the broader societal implications of its privatization and legal contestation. The library resources and research consultation were thus critical in enabling a multi-layered analysis that incorporated cultural, legal, and economic dimensions into a unified scholarly narrative.

In conclusion, the extensive support offered by Columbia University Libraries—including interlibrary loan services and specialized research consultations—was vital to the successful development of my work, which I completed during the Summer of 2024 and presented later that October. These resources empowered me to move beyond superficial treatments of the Adams Morgan Plaza conflict and to engage deeply with its historical, legal, and social complexities. My experience underscores the essential role that robust library systems and expert librarianship play in enabling rigorous, interdisciplinary scholarship.