

ANC 3/4G Resolution Supporting
Comet Ping Pong and
Other Threatened District of Columbia Businesses

WHEREAS, Comet Ping Pong is a locally-owned, family-friendly pizza restaurant that provides dining and entertainment for a broad cross-section of the Chevy Chase community and is a significant asset for this neighborhood;

WHEREAS, over the last several weeks, completely false information has been disseminated on Internet sites and on social media spreading malicious lies about Comet Ping Pong;

WHEREAS, Comet Ping Pong and its employees have been subjected to harassing, threatening posts on social media, emails, and telephone calls as a result of these false allegations;

WHEREAS, these threats became all too real on December 3, 2016, when an armed person entered Comet Ping Pong and terrorized employees, customers, and the general neighborhood;

WHEREAS, other businesses along the 5000 block of Connecticut Avenue -- including Terasol, Besta Pizza, Little Red Fox, and Politics and Prose -- have received similar threats and harassment that could jeopardize their livelihoods and the availability of these establishments to serve our community;

WHEREAS, the police have responded admirably to protect the threatened businesses and their customers;

WHEREAS, public and elected officials' identification and unequivocal censure of such falsehoods can deter or discourage the instigation and spread of such deliberate misinformation and can forestall threatening or violent action by those who might be deluded by these lies;

WHEREAS, public and elected officials have a fundamental obligation to do all that they can to protect innocent businesses, employees, and their customers from threats or violence based on fabricated acquisitions that could have no basis in fact;

It is RESOLVED that ANC 3/4G fully supports Comet Ping Pong and the other businesses that have been subjected to this harassment and these threats and urges the community to continue to patronize and support them.

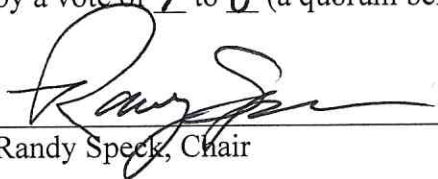
It is further RESOLVED that ANC 3/4G commends the police for their diligent work to apprehend the alleged perpetrator of the incident on December 3 and urges the police to continue a visible presence in that area to deter any similar future threat.

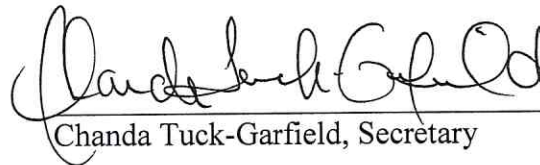
It is further RESOLVED that ANC 3/4G urges the Mayor and Councilmembers to express their public and enthusiastic support for Comet Ping Pong and the other businesses in the

5000 block of Connecticut with their statements and their personal patronage of these establishments so that this community and the wider public in the District and the Nation will know that the malicious lies being circulated are completely false, with no basis in fact.

It is further RESOLVED that ANC 3/4G urges the Mayor and Councilmembers to call on our national leaders, including the President-elect and the Vice President-elect, to take a firm stand opposing and condemning this type of "fake news" that jeopardizes the viability of small businesses and endangers the peace and tranquility of our neighborhoods.

Approved by the ANC at its regularly scheduled and noticed December 12, 2016 meeting by a vote of 7 to 0 (a quorum being 4).


Randy Speck, Chair


Chanda Tuck-Garfield, Secretary