



**Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G**

CHEVY CHASE, BARNABY WOODS, HAWTHORNE

COMMISSIONERS

3/4 G-01 - Abraham Clayman, Secretary
3/4 G-02 - Chanda Tuck-Garfield, Treasurer
3/4 G-03 - Randy Speck, Chair
3/4 G-04 - Rebecca Maydak
3/4 G-05 - Gerald Malitz
3/4 G-06 - Dan Bradfield
3/4 G-07 - Christopher Fromboluti, Vice-Chair

5601 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
P.O. Box 6252 Washington, D.C. 20015
Chevychaseanc3@verizon.net
<http://www.anc3g.org>
YouTube: ANC3G
202.363.5803

**ANC 3/4G Testimony Before the
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Performance Oversight Hearing on the
Metropolitan Police Department
February 7, 2019**

Chairperson Allen and members of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. I am Randy Speck, Chair of ANC 3/4G (Chevy Chase), and I am testifying on behalf of our Commission, which authorized this testimony at its January 28, 2019 meeting by a vote of 7 to 0 (a quorum being 4).

Our ANC is located in MPD's Second District, Police Service Area (PSA) 201, and while crime is relatively low compared with many parts of the city, our residents appreciate police officers' presence and attentiveness to keep our neighborhoods safe. The businesses along Connecticut Avenue between Livingston Street and Chevy Chase Circle rely on regular patrols by Officer Parr on his always welcome Segway. Recently retired Second District Commander Melvin Gresham

has attended our meeting whenever we requested, and the new Commander, Duncan Bedlion, introduced himself at our January 28, 2019 meeting. Chief Newsham also meets regularly with ANC commissioners across the city to give us the latest information on MPD activities and to answer any questions. We look forward to working with Commander Bedlion and Chief Newsham on any public safety issues that arise.

Each year, our community recognizes particularly outstanding performance at an awards banquet for Second District officers and civilian employees. In addition to the sometimes mundane — but essential — enforcement of traffic laws and neighborhood patrols, our officers have shown imagination, dedication, and courage in identifying and apprehending criminals. Their individual stories are inspiring. We are truly grateful for their skill and commitment.

We commend Mayor Bowser and Chief Newsham for their efforts to increase the number of front-line protectors by about 150 over the next four years to reach the 4,000 mark by 2023. These additional officers will walk neighborhood beats and ride bikes, Segways, and scooters — the essence of neighborhood policing. The Second District boundaries have recently expanded to include parts of the Central Business District, and we trust that this increase in responsibility will be accompanied by an increase in staffing so that we continue to have necessary coverage in PSA 201.

Finally, we recognize that while most kinds of crimes in the city have decreased over the last year, homicides have increased. This is a troubling trend that needs to be addressed and reversed. We support Council Chair Mendelson's admonition in a January 20, 2019 Washington Post op-ed (<http://bit.ly/2HFm02u>) to "focus on guns" so that the criminal's "choice to use a gun will not be tolerated." All of the government's levers should be used to make penalties a convincing deterrent to using a gun in a crime or having possession of a gun illegally. Nothing in the Second Amendment protects the use of guns to commit crimes. We urge the Council and the Mayor to take aggressive steps to support MPD by refusing to accept the use of guns to threaten community safety.

Thank you.