



**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 Transportation and the Environment
Budget Hearing on the
Department of Energy and Environment
April 1, 2019**

Chairperson Cheh and members of the Committee on Transportation and the Environment, 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 March 25, 2019 meeting by a vote of 6 to 0 (a quorum being 4).

Our Commission provided testimony to the Committee at its performance oversight hearing for the Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) on February 14, 2019, emphasizing the importance of its fair administration of the “District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority Rate Increase Mitigation Amendment Act of 2018.” (That testimony is available on the Commission’s website, <http://bit.ly/2IbSrFS>.) Under that statute, DOEE was to distribute \$7.5 million to low-income residents and non-profit organizations to provide relief from DC Water’s Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge (CRIAC).

At that oversight hearing, our Commission testified that DOEE's regulations for providing this relief to non-profit organizations like the continuing care retirement communities and faith-based institutions within our ANC's boundaries were arbitrary, capricious, and inconsistent with the Council's intent. DOEE has suggested that it may be modifying its regulations to address this concern, but by the time it reconsiders some non-profits' applications, there may be insufficient funds to provide them with relief for FY 2019.

The Mayor's FY 2020 budget exacerbates this likely shortfall for next year. The Mayor proposes to reduce DOEE's budget for CRIAC relief from \$7.5 million to only \$4.0 million (<http://bit.ly/2JyFNkX> at page 4). This proposed amount is wholly inadequate. The relief provided in FY 2019 was only barely sufficient to address the most acute impacts of increasing CRIAC fees on those least able to afford them. A reduction in those funds will ensure that more residents and non-profit organizations will suffer real economic hardship as they struggle to pay their water bills.

Rather than reducing assistance to the most needy, the District should be assuming its responsibility for stormwater runoff from District-owned streets, alleys, and sidewalks and paying its fair share for CRIAC. (See the Commission's testimony before the Committee at DC Water's February 26, 2019 performance oversight hearing, available at the Commission's website, <http://bit.ly/2U65Unm>.) We commend the Council for its March 19, 2019 CRIAC Policy Brief (<http://bit.ly/2JCpZh1>), which includes this step as one of the "strategies for keeping CRIAC affordable." At a minimum, however, we urge the Council to restore the CRIAC relief budget to its FY 2019 level — \$7.5 million.