



**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  
[3G@anc.dc.gov](mailto:3G@anc.dc.gov)  
<http://www.anc3g.org>  
YouTube: ANC3G  
202.363.5803

**Minutes**  
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting  
**June 22, 2020**

**Introductions, description of virtual meeting procedures, and adoption of agenda  
(0:00:00)**

The Commission conducted its meeting via Zoom. Commissioner Speck called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, and Commissioners Malitz, Fromboluti, Bradfield, Maydak, and Tuck-Garfield introduced themselves. Commissioner Speck declared a quorum. The Commissioners adopted the agenda by a vote of 6-0. Commissioner Speck described the procedures for the virtual meeting. The video of the meeting is available at [https://youtu.be/jiIzQB\\_ZPPU](https://youtu.be/jiIzQB_ZPPU).

**Announcements (0:05:10)**

Commissioner Speck noted that the Commission adopted a resolution at its June 8, 2020 meeting describing the problems experienced in the June 2, 2020 primary election and urging the Board of Elections and the Council to send mail-in ballots to all registered voters for the November 3, 2020 general election. On June 17, the Board reviewed its experience in the primary election (<https://bit.ly/3ej3AA9>), where voters were required to request a mail-in ballot, and proposed instead that it “mail a ballot to every registered voter in DC” for the general election — as the ANC recommended. It also proposes to have 40 in-person voting centers, instead of only 20 for the primary, to hire more staff for the general election, and to “heavily message to voters about voting locations and early voting.” The Council’s Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety held a roundtable hearing on June 18, 2020 to address these issues as well, and the Commission testified at that hearing, again urging the Council and the Board of Elections to mail general election ballots to all registered voters.

Commissioner Speck said that on June 26th, ANC commissioners may begin the process of getting on the November 3rd general election ballot. To qualify, a candidate must be a registered voter and must have lived in the Single Member District for at least 60 days. The candidate must also get petition signatures from at least ten voters in the Single Member District. Because of the coronavirus emergency, petition signatures may be gathered by email and must be returned to the Board of Elections by August 5, 2020. More information will be available on the Board's website at <https://bit.ly/2Cu0ICN>.

Commissioner Speck said that MPD Second District Commander Bedlion will have a conversation with residents on Tuesday, June 23, 2020, at 7:00 pm. The Commander plans to discuss recent events and answer residents' questions. To register for this online event, please email your interest to [ssbapartment@aol.com](mailto:ssbapartment@aol.com).

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield announced that she will not run for reelection as commissioner for ANC 3/4G02. She thanked the community and the other commissioners for the opportunity to serve as commissioner. Commissioner Speck expressed the Commission's appreciation for her service over the past six years.

Denise Senecal, Market Research Manager at Pepco, described the Reduce Energy Use DC program, which is a collaboration between the government, communities, and businesses to reduce energy consumption. They ask customers to pledge and learn how to use energy more efficiently, to take steps to reduce energy use at home, and to save money while helping fight climate change. By taking the pledge, customers will receive energy-saving tips and a chance to win a \$300 credit on your electric bill through one of several random drawings. More information is available at <https://www.reduceenergyusedc.com>.

Councilmember Cheh's Office announced that it is working with the Department of Transportation to schedule a meeting with Ward 3 Bikes and Deal parents about designation of "slow streets" around the school. The Councilmember's office will also provide an update on the budget at the next ANC meeting and hopes to report good news for Chevy Chase and other Ward 3 communities.

### **Update on coronavirus emergency impacts and available resources (0:15:00)**

Commissioner Malitz reported that the District had a rolling five-day average of 42 new cases a day, which is a significant improvement. The number of hospitalizations (155) and ICU beds taken (50) are also the lowest in three months. Nevertheless, he said that the novel coronavirus cannot be taken lightly. Even though the District has gone to Phase 2 of the reopening, residents should wear masks and practice social distancing.

Commissioner Malitz indicated that testing has expanded significantly so that 9.1% of the District's population has been tested. Testing has also increased in our community (Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Forest Hills). The restaurants in our neighborhood have all reopened or are planning to reopen around July 1st. Other businesses are also reopening (though two businesses, Periwinkle and Catch Can, have closed permanently for other reasons). The Avalon Theater will also be reopening, though it will be limited to no more than 50 patrons at a time.

### **Discussion and possible vote on applications for grants related to COVID-19 relief (0:21:20)**

Commissioner Speck reported that the Commission received a grant application for \$2,000 from the Ward 3 Mutual Aid Network to provide grocery deliveries and other essential needs to residents in Ward 3 and Ward 4 west of Rock Creek Park. Peter Lynch made a presentation in support of the grant application at the Commission's June 8, 2020 meeting. The Commission agreed to request that residents or organizations submit any other grant applications by June 18, 2020, and to consider the Ward 3 Mutual Aid grant application and any others at the June 22, 2020 meeting. No other applications were received.

Commissioner Speck indicated that ANC grants have to be approved by Gottlieb Simon, Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and he raised two questions about this application. First, he said that there should be more specificity about how the grant funds will be spent. Second, the ANC can only make grants to organizations, not to individuals. Director Simon said that there must be an entity to receive the grant.

Sara Swertsoff, from Ward 3 Mutual Aid Network, addressed those questions. She said that the funds will be used to purchase groceries, medicines, and household necessities for those in need. Occasionally, the Network also provides personal protection equipment. She said that volunteers cover the costs of delivery.

Ms. Swertsoff said that the Network does not currently have a bank account in its name, and she handles the donations and disbursements through a separate bank account in her name. She said that they are working to establish an organization that can have its own bank account. Alternatively, she said that it may be possible to partner with a church that could be the recipient of the grant for use by the Mutual Aid Network. Peter Lynch also spoke on behalf of the grant application.

Commissioners supported the purpose of the requested grant. They noted, however, that the Commission's grants had been disapproved in the past, and we wanted to avoid that happening in this instance. Commissioner Speck said that he would work with the OANC and the Mutual Aid Network on an arrangement that will satisfy the OANC's

requirements. The Commission voted to approved the requested \$2,000 grant for the purpose of providing groceries, medicines, and other household needs to be paid to an entity that is acceptable to the OANC.

### **Discussion on mission, organization, membership, and procedures for ANC 3/4G's Task Force on Racism (0:46:50)**

Commissioner Speck reviewed the Commission's June 8, 2020 Statement on Racism (available at <https://bit.ly/3dsxsJ3>). As part of that statement, the Commission committed to "Create a representational working group within ANC 3/4G tasked with identifying equity and justice issues within our community and proposing concrete solutions."

Commissioner Tuck-Garfield said that the Task Force should be modeled on the other successful task forces that the Commission has used, e.g., the Comprehensive Plan Task Force. She said that all community members should be invited to participate, and that the task force should focus on substantive issues and specific actions that the Commission can take in areas such as education, health care, and public safety.

Commissioner Maydak said that the Task Force should look at realistic steps that will impact people's lives. She said that the Commission should focus on actions that can help to close the racial divide, and we should rely on the community's expertise. The Task Force should recommend actionable items.

Commissioner Bradfield emphasized the need for a mission statement and an organization that can lead the Task Force. He proposed that the Commission create a mission statement and agenda for the first meeting.

Commissioner Speck said that the Task Force should have its initial meeting soon, as early as the beginning of July. He also suggested that the Task Force should report to the Commission in the fall with recommendations.

Lisa Oakley, a resident, asked the Commission to support removal of the Frances Newlands' name from the Chevy Chase Circle fountain. She reported conversations with the National Park Service, which is amenable to removing the plaque with Newlands' name. Commissioner Speck noted that the Chevy Chase Land Company has also indicated its support for removing the name from the fountain. He also noted that there is a Newlands Street and Newlands Park in our neighborhood and that there is a movement to change the name of Woodrow Wilson High School. He suggested that these were issues that the Task Force could address and make recommendations to the Commission.

The Commission agreed that Commissioners Tuck-Garfield, Bradfield, and Speck would draft a mission statement and plans for the first meeting of the Task Force in early July.

**Discussion of possible transportation issues for reopening schools in the Fall, including the possible designation of “slow streets” (1:07:10)**

Commissioner Malitz said that with all of the talk about how school might be taking shape in the Fall, some parents have expressed concern about transportation to and from school. Depending on the instruction methodology employed — e.g., split sessions — kids may be going to school on alternate days or weeks with more online learning, and transportation issues could be overwhelming.

Different methods for getting to school have different risks or concerns: (1) kids walking to school present no problem with possible coronavirus infection; (2) parents driving them to school is also no problem; (3) car pooling is a potential problem since parents may not be comfortable in an inadequate social distancing environment; (4) riding a bus is potentially a big problem with social distancing; (5) biking is potentially a big problem if many more kids choose this method and increase bike traffic on streets and sidewalks; (6) taking a taxi, Uber, or Lyft to school may present problems similar to car pooling.

Commissioner Malitz proposed that the Commission send a letter to the appropriate District officials encouraging them to address these transportation issues promptly since it is only nine weeks until school opens for the fall. Commissioner Speck noted that many of these issues fall within the Department of Transportation’s purview, and Councilmember Cheh has been in contact with DDOT about school transportation issues. Commissioner Malitz noted, however, that DCPS is responsible for school buses, and they need to be involved in this planning.

Josh Rising, a resident in the ANC, said that the District needs a comprehensive plan for school transportation. He said that people are likely to be reluctant to take buses. He and his son said that there will likely be more biking to Deal and Wilson, and the District should take steps to make sure those young bikers will be safe.

Commissioner Speck proposed to prepare a letter to the appropriate District officials asking them to address the transportation issues related to resuming school in the fall, and the Commission agreed with that approach.

**Discussion of letter to the District Council urging support for designating the Chevy Chase business corridor as a “Main Street”**

Commissioner Speck said that Councilmember Cheh is supporting designation of our commercial district as a “Main Street” and the inclusion of funding for it in the FY 2021 budget. Based on conversations with her staff, they have encouraged the Commission to write a letter of support. Commissioner Speck proposed that the Commission send the letter, as requested, a draft of which he had circulated to commissioners. The Commissioners agreed unanimously.

**Commission Business (1:20:25)**

1. The Commission approved the June 8, 2020 minutes by a vote of 6 to 0.
2. The Commission approved a check to Verizon for \$302.45 to pay for two months of phone and internet service by a vote of 6 to 0.
3. Items for next meeting: Presentation by DDOT on the Connecticut Avenue Reversible Lane and Operational Study

**Adjournment (1:24:05)**

Signed:

Randy Speck  
Chair

Abe Clayman  
Secretary