



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

CHEVY CHASE, BARNABY WOODS, HAWTHORNE

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ANC 3/4G Resolution

Calling for the Francis Newlands Name Plaque Removal at the Fountain at Chevy Chase Circle

Whereas, the fountain in Chevy Chase Circle is called the “Francis Griffith Newlands Memorial Fountain” as evidenced by two plaques at the fountain dedicating (and rededicating) it to the late Francis G. Newlands (1846-1917), the fountain being listed on the National Registry of Historic Places;

Whereas, ANC 3/4G believes that it is important that the Chevy Chase community understands that we, as a governmental body, do value all of our citizens and believe that the Fountain is a symbol of racial discrimination, injustice, and pain since it is named after Francis G. Newlands, who perpetuated racial discrimination and injustice as evidenced by the historical record of his own words, speeches, publications, and actions. For example, Newlands stated: “I believe this should be a white man’s country, and we should frankly express our determination that it shall be.” (New York Times, June 17, 1912) Additionally, as part of his 1912 “White Plank” for the Democratic Convention platform, Newlands called for amending the Constitution to prohibit the vote to African Americans and limit immigration to whites only. (Reclaiming the Arid West: the Career of Francis G. Newlands, William D. Rowley, 1996)

Whereas, this is not an issue of first impression for ANC 3/4G. In 2014, ANC 3/4G discussed and voted to table a resolution, presented by former Commission Gary Thompson, regarding Francis Newlands and the renaming of the Chevy Chase Circle Fountain.

Whereas, residents in our community have requested that our ANC re-consider the issue of the naming of the Francis Newlands Fountain at Chevy Chase Circle, as supported by the over 2,000 signatures on a Change.org petition (<https://www.change.org/p/muriel-bowser-remove-the-racist-plaque-in-chevy-chase-circle>).

Thus, ANC 3/4G believes that recent community conversations and discussions about systemic racism in our cultural and governmental institutions along with the recent incidents of racial injustice across the United States require that we consider the role our ANC can play as a “change maker in promoting antiracist cultural values, experiences, and symbols”. At this very moment, across the United States in cities, states, and territories, various institutions and governmental entities are contemplating, reviewing, and taking action on similar renaming issues of buildings, streets, fountains, and other symbols of systemic racism including statues.

ANC 3/4G also believes that critical action steps are necessary as a part of our Chevy Chase community’s holistic healing process of acknowledging the present and past racial injustices committed by individuals and institutions within the Chevy Chase community.

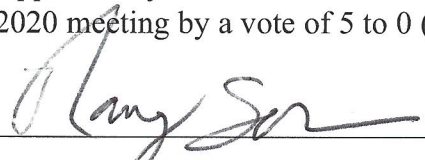
Whereas, ANC 3/4G respectfully resolves that:

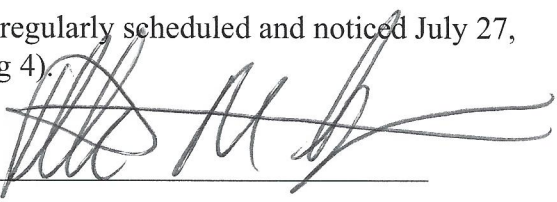
1. ANC 3/4G requests that the National Park Service remove the brass plaque bearing Francis Newlands name from the Chevy Chase Circle, which is a property managed by the National Park Service;
2. ANC 3/4G requests that the National Park Service, in conjunction with students, community members, and relevant historical experts including but not limited to Historic Chevy Chase DC and the Chevy Chase Historical Society, create a historical exhibit either at Chevy Chase Circle or a proximity close to the fountain that discusses Newlands, racial and housing discrimination, and other relevant issues;
3. The ANC 3/4G Task Force on Racism, as a part of the substantive workgroup issues discussed, make recommendations about suggested names for the Fountain as a part of its official report to the ANC, Councilmembers Cheh and Todd, and other appropriate government officials; and

4. ANC 3/4G, upon receiving those name recommendations, consider the recommendations as part of the Task Force's report and potentially hold a vote on the Fountain's name and related next steps.

This resolution, in conjunction with ANC 3/4G's recent June 8, 2020 resolution condemning racism, affirm and solidify our firm belief that there is no place for systemic racism in the Chevy Chase community, Washington, DC, and the United States of America.

Approved by ANC 3/4G after a discussion at its regularly scheduled and noticed July 27, 2020 meeting by a vote of 5 to 0 (a quorum being 4).



Randy Speck, Chair

Abe Clayman, Secretary