



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

CHEVY CHASE, BARNABY WOODS, HAWTHORNE

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**ANC 3/4G Resolution Regarding the**  
**Task Force on Racism**  
**December 14, 2020**

1. On June 8, 2020, the Commission adopted a Statement on Racism<sup>1</sup> and created a Task Force to identify equity and justice issues within our community and to propose concrete solutions. The Commission discussed the Task Force at its June 22, 2020 meeting.
2. On July 13, 2020, the Commission discussed a framework for the Task Force to guide its work, including its mission, organization, and timetable.<sup>2</sup> The Task Force was to prepare a comprehensive report no later than October 15, 2020, so that the Commission could consider that report at its October 26, 2020 meeting.
3. The Task Force held an organizational meeting on July 15, 2020. The Commission invited any interested residents to participate in this virtual meeting, and 27 people from the community attended. The Task Force divided into three working groups — Community, Education/ Health, and Housing — with Task Force members choosing which groups interested them. Each of the working groups met multiple times over the next three months and developed their reports and recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Statement on Racism, June 8, 2020, available at <https://bit.ly/3dsxsJ3>.

<sup>2</sup> Framework for ANC 3/4G's Task Force on Racism, July 13, 2020, available at <https://bit.ly/2AIW1Ex>.

4. Each of the working groups presented its draft report and recommendations at the Commission's October 26, 2020 meeting.<sup>3</sup> Following the meeting, the working groups made some changes to the reports.<sup>4</sup> Based on the revised draft reports, the Commission held a "town hall" meeting on November 16, 2020, to get community comments and questions. About 40 residents attended the town hall, in addition to four current commissioners and 16 members of the Task Force.<sup>5</sup>
5. The Task Force was asked to "place greatest emphasis on developing realistic steps that the Commission can take to impact people's lives. The Task Force should recommend actionable items with the intent to close the racial divide."<sup>6</sup> The Task Force was to "prepare a comprehensive report with its findings and recommendations for the Commission's consideration."<sup>7</sup> That said, the recommendations that the work groups prepared do not include implementation strategies, time frames, estimated levels of effort to work on the recommendations, and who would be the responsible people/organizations/agencies to carry them out. The recommendations in the working groups' reports are extensive, and if Commissioners were to be involved in any aspects of the ongoing work it would take a considerable amount of the Commission's time over the coming years, especially relative to its other significant ongoing responsibilities (e.g., the new Community Center and Library, the development of the Small Area Plan for the Chevy Chase Gateway, and the District Department of Transportation's Connecticut Avenue Reversible Lanes Study, and all of the nuts and bolts of the Commission's work including business issues, roads and sidewalks, building permits, education issues, crime and safety, etc.).
6. The Commission heard at the November 16, 2020 town hall and through other communications that a number of constituents are concerned about the content of some of the reports' recommendations and the lack of necessary community engagement and they urged the Commission to allow more time to discuss and to comment on and evaluate the reports and recommendations.

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<sup>3</sup> The minutes of that meeting are available at <https://bit.ly/2IXKJ2S>, and the video is available at [https://youtu.be/dwjeMw\\_gKUI](https://youtu.be/dwjeMw_gKUI) beginning at 00:31:05.

<sup>4</sup> The work groups' revised draft reports are available at <https://bit.ly/3oCmMi3>.

<sup>5</sup> The video of the town hall meeting is available at <https://youtu.be/O5IFnEd8Lr8>.


<sup>6</sup> Framework at page 1.

<sup>7</sup> Framework, page 3.

7. Five of the current commissioners are retiring as of December 31, 2020, and any substantive resolution that this Commission might pass would be premature given the above considerations.
8. The Commission commends the Task Force working groups for the substantial study, research, analysis, writing, and thought that went into their reports. The issues that they addressed are difficult and challenging.
9. In light of the breadth and complexity of the issues addressed in the Task Force reports including: the concerns raised about some much needed aspects of the reports as noted in paragraph 5 above, the need for additional community engagement, and the fact that the new Commission must assume responsibility for helping to implement any final approved reports and recommendations, the Commission accepts the above statements in paragraphs 1 through 8, requests that the Task Force continue its work assisting the Commission, at the Commission's direction, in its ongoing community engagement and development of implementation strategies and other items discussed in paragraph 5, and defers any additional action on the reports above and beyond this resolution to the new Commission for its consideration in 2021.

Approved by ANC 3/4G after a discussion at its regularly scheduled and noticed December 14, 2020 meeting by a vote of 4 to 0 (a quorum being 4).

  
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Randy Speck, Chair

  
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Abe Clayman, Secretary