



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

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COMMISSIONERS

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Vice Chair 3/4G-02 - John Higgins, Treasurer
3/4G-03 - Randy Speck, Chair 3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin 3/4G-05 - Connie K. N. Chang
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Secretary 3/4G-07 – [Vacant]

Minutes
ANC 3/4G Public Meeting
October 25, 2021
Zoom Meeting 7:00 – 9:50 pm
Meeting [Link](#)

[00:00:00](#) **Introduction of Commissioners**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Commissioner Randy Speck, Chair (3/4G-03), presiding. Also present were Commissioners Lisa R. Gore (3/4G-01), Connie K.N. Chang (3/4G-05), Michael Zeldin (3/4G-04) and Peter Gosselin (3/4G-06). Because of computer problems, Commissioner John K. Higgins (3/4G-02) was delayed in joining and at times connected by text or phone only. Chair Speck declared a quorum (being four Commissioners present).

[00:02:25](#) **Zoom Meeting Procedures**

As has been true since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the Commission met virtually. Chair Speck described the body's Zoom meeting procedures.

[00:04:16](#) **Adoption of Agenda**

Chair Speck moved that the agenda be approved. The motion was passed 5 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

[00:06:22](#)

Commissioner Announcements

Chair Speck

Leaf Collection — Starting November 1, 2021, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will make two one-week passes in every neighborhood to collect leaves. To ensure residents' leaves are collected, they should place raked leaves in the tree box in front of their homes or at the curb on the Sunday before their scheduled collection week. Leaves collected from DPW-serviced households will be composted. Our ANC is scheduled first, so DPW asks that residents should get their leaves ready by Sunday, October 31, 2021. More information is available on DPW's [leaf-collection brochure](#).

Chevy Chase Circle — Join the Friends of Chevy Chase Circle and BSA Troop 255 on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 9:00 am to plant crocuses in the Circle so that we'll have purple and violet crocus in the spring. Please bring any augers — manual or battery-powered — to help. You can send questions to Info@FriendsofCCC.org.

Spooktacular — The Chevy Chase Citizens Association is reviving Spooktacular to be held on Connecticut Avenue on Halloween. Trick-or-treats will be provided by local businesses from 2 to 5 on Sunday, October 31, 2021.

Redistricting — The Council's Subcommittee on Redistricting has been holding hearings for each ward on possible changes to the ward boundaries. The hearing for Ward 3 was held on October 22, 2021, and the hearing for Ward 4 will be held on October 28, 2021, at 10:00 am. A hearing for the entire District will be held on November 5, 2021, at 12:00 pm. The Subcommittee expects to mark-up the ward redistricting bill in mid-November and expects the first vote on the bill on December 7, 2021. Once the ward boundaries are set, the Council will determine the ANC boundaries within each ward. If you wish to volunteer for a committee in Ward 3 or Ward 4 to advise the Council on ANC boundaries, please contact Councilmember Cheh or Councilmember Lewis George. Information on redistricting and how to submit testimony to the Subcommittee is available at the Subcommittee's [website](#).

Bingham Drive Restoration — DC Water, which is responsible for restoring Bingham Drive, has now received all of the required permits and drawing approvals from the National Park Service and the District Department of Energy and Environment. DC Water's contractor is reviewing the approved drawings so that they can provide a price to complete the restoration work, which DC Water will then need to negotiate. Given that the approach of colder weather, DC Water does not expect to be able to begin work until early spring of 2022. They expect the work will not take longer than 60 days which would mean an estimated completion date of May 2022.

Commissioner Gosselin

Military Road-Chevy Chase Parkway Intersection – Gosselin read a letter from six grader Lily Carpenter that was emailed to Acting DDOT Director Everett Lott with copies to Commissioner Chang, Commissioner Gosselin, and Councilmember Cheh about the dangerous intersection. Gosselin said he continues to believe that the city’s Department of Transportation (DDOT) should complete the interim measures it has promised since at least last July. But he added that he will shortly introduce a proposal to consider whether to make the one block of Chevy Chase Parkway between Military Road, NW and Legation Street, NW one way north bound.

The letter reads as follows:

“Dear Everett Lott,

“My name is Lily Carpenter, and I am a sixth-grader at Alice Deal Middle School. In geography class, we are talking about things we want to improve in our neighborhood. I am writing to you because I would like to reduce the number of accidents that occur at the Military and Chevy Chase Parkway’s intersection.

“My family and I took notes of one of your recent ANC (Advisory Neighborhood Commissions) meetings regarding this topic. After doing so, I would like to voice my opinion. Firstly, others and I strongly believe that transferring Chevy Chase Parkway to a one-way street would significantly help to minimize car accidents. To add to this idea, having more accidents is the complete opposite of what we want. Thus, adding a new distraction, a big sign or something on the road, would take the drivers' attention off the road. In my opinion, we should get an average sign that does not pop out too much.

“In essence, I assume that by transferring Chevy Chase Parkway to a one-way street the accidents in this intersection would be minimized and benefit the members of our community. “[please note the attached file is a signed petition from neighbors on the 3600 block of Military Road interested in the one-way conversion]

Sincerely, your citizen,
Lily Carpenter”

Commissioner Chang

Holiday Market – On November 13, 2021, Pallavi Chandra, organizer of the Chevy Chase Farmers Market Holiday Market, will sponsor a holiday market from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm at Lafayette Elementary School plaza. This will follow the regular Saturday Farmers Market from 8 am to 1 pm. Women artisans and vendors have been invited to showcase their goods and products at this market. For more information, see: chevychasefarmersmarket.com.

Traffic Safety Investigation Dashboard – On November 4, 2021, the District’s Department of Transportation will meet with members of the ANC Vision Zero Caucus to share features of the newly released DDOT beta-version, traffic safety investigation dashboard and to collect

feedback from commissioners for what kind of user interface and data ANCs and the public most want to see. A summary of the meeting's results will be discussed at the ANC's November 8, 2021 Public Meeting as well as at a citywide ANC commissioner meeting hosted by Chander Jayaraman.

00:23:29

Community Announcements

Emir Gur-Ravantab, Ward 3 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)

COVID Update – Some 73% of DC residents have received at least one dose of the COVID vaccine; boosters are widely available for those above 65, those with medical conditions, residents of long-term care facilities, and those whose work puts them in increased risk for exposure. Booster locations can be found at vaccines.gov.

Monitoring Schools for COVID -- Since schools have reopened, the city has been tracking outbreaks within the system. Since the start of the new school year, the majority of COVID cases in DC schools have come from elementary schools, with charter schools comprising the school setting with the most cases. Lafayette Elementary School has reported seven cases as of October 20, 2021 with one of those seven being asymptomatic. For any Lafayette parents attending the meeting, please notify Gur-Ravantab if these numbers reflect what they have been hearing; there are reports that school COVID data may not be entirely accurate. City officials are working to improve it.

COVID Mandate for Schools -- Starting on November 1, 2021, all adults who regularly come into any DC school, public, private or charter, in any capacity, whether as a teacher, custodian, other staff, or volunteer, must have been vaccinated for COVID; the alternative option of taking weekly tests will no longer be available.

Pandemic Rent and Utility Assistance -- STAY DC, the city's rental and utility assistance program, is expected to deplete its funding on October 27, 2021. Anyone experiencing financial hardship in paying rent should apply for the program as soon as possible. The administration is applying with the federal government for more funding, which may be reallocated from other jurisdictions.

Vision Zero -- DC's initiative to end unsafe roadways and traffic casualties, has been a hot button issue as of late. Mayor Bowser urged DDOT to accelerate and streamline the process in which safety improvements are rolled out, and kicked off these changes with a press conference on October 25, 2021 at Woodley Park. Per her announcement, DDOT installed 91 speed humps at over 30 locations, installed or updated 16 stop signs, and installed right turn hardening devices at four locations. Other projects that are part of the campaign include the conversion of two-way stop-controlled intersections to all-way stop-controlled intersections as well as the installation of other signage and pavement marking improvements, such as high-visibility crosswalks, intersection parking clearance signs, and tactical curb extensions. Part of

streamlining the process has also included accelerating the community engagement process. Gur-Ravantab asked commissioners and residents to contact him to do community walk-throughs so people can and identify unsafe road conditions. In recent months, he has met with Chair Speck and Commissioner Gosselin at Military Road, Commissioner Zeldin at Western Avenue, and Commissioner Chang at Nevada Avenue. Major issues have included requests for speed bumps, sidewalk repairs, double-backing of existing stop signs and installing new ones where speeds are high and stop sign compliance is low, speed cameras, and repainting faded crosswalk stripes. DDOT's community engagement specialists have also joined these walks, serving as an important opportunity for DDOT to prioritize roadway improvements in neighborhoods.

COVID-related Grants -- The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development has partnered with Industrial Bank to provide \$1 million in grants residents, small businesses, and non-profit organizations. If you are a DC resident who is experiencing home mortgage delinquencies as a result of the pandemic, a DC-based non-profit organization that has and/or will provide services to primarily District residents, or a DC-based small business that has been negatively impacted by the pandemic, you may be eligible for this grant. For individual residents, there are 30 grants at \$10,000 each. For DC non-profits, there are 7 grants at \$25,000 each, and for DC-based small businesses, there are 20 grants at \$20,000 each. For more information, visit: <https://www.industrial-bank.com/home/dmped>.

Solar Energy – On October 27, 2021, the city will promote renewable energy with the Solar For All initiative. The initiative is designed to provide 100,000 low-to-moderate income families with clean renewable energy. The event is to help 150 low-to-moderate income families enroll in the program and reduce their electricity bills by 50 percent over 15 years. The event will be held at the Columbia Heights Community Center at 1480 Girard Street NW.

00:31:54 **Special Exception, 3637 Patterson St. NW, Blessed Sacrament Playing Field**

The Commission heard from Mary Seidel on behalf of Blessed Sacrament School, which was seeking a renewal of its special zoning exception for its playing field at 3637 Patterson St. NW. (BZA Case No. [20593](#)) Until the school purchased a house at the location and razed it a decade ago, Seidel said its only playground was a parking lot. She said that Blessed Sacrament reached an agreement with neighbors about use of the field during school hours and limited use by the immediate community at other times. She said most neighbors continue to support the use. On a motion by Commissioner Chang, the Commission voted to support the requested renewal. The motion was passed 5 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

00:44:21 **Special Exception, 3622 Patterson St. NW**

The Commission heard from Carolynn Race who, with her partner Yi-Ru Chen, is seeking an exception to build a screen porch in the back yard of their home at 3622 Patterson St. NW (BZA Case No. 20558) On a motion by Commissioner Chang, the ANC voted to support the application. The motion was passed 5 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

[00:55:42](#)

Application to Close a Paper Road at Moreland Place NW

The Commission heard from John Hurvitz who is asking the District to strike a paper road, which appears on municipal surveyor maps, but has never been built, and let abutting neighbors divide the property between themselves. (DC Office of the Surveyor File No. S.O. 21-05063) Commissioner Higgins, who represents several of the neighbors, said attempts to remove the paper road date back to 1953. Mr. Hurvitz said the property is overgrown, clogged with invasive bamboo, and has water runoff problems, but since none of the neighbors has a right to the parcel, these problems cannot be addressed. One neighbor, Robert Bernstein, said he's concerned that if the land is divided, someone will try to develop it. He advocated leaving the status of the property as is and the property itself undeveloped. Another neighbor, Mark Feldman, complained of water runoff problems, but most of these appear to be because of the paved portion of Moreland Place, not the property. On a motion by Chair Speck, the Commission voted to support the application to close the paper road. The motion was passed 5 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain), Higgins was absent for the vote because of computer problems.

[01:37:37](#)

Chevy Chase Small Area Plan Update

Commissioner Chang said that the ANC has sponsored five information exchange sessions related to the planning process since September 22, 2021. She said the District's Office of Planning (OP) closed the comment period for its nine-page "Draft Vision and Goals" document on October 22, 2021 after two extensions. The agency plans to revise the document based on comments and again circulate it. She said the SAP's community advisory committee will meet October 26, 2021, to hear from OP about a procurement problem for the contractor to conduct the charrette portion of the process and discuss the next phase of the planning process and what that schedule will look like.

Commissioner Gosselin proposed a resolution asking OP to extend the planning process through the first quarter of 2022. He said that, apparently because of the procurement problem, the calendar for the fall has been pushed back so that SAP-related events are apt to collide with the upcoming holidays. Prior to the meeting, Chair Speck telephoned Erkin Ozberk, OP's SAP project manager, and was told the agency intended to extend the process into the new calendar year.

Chang expressed her view that the resolution was premature given that we would learn what the revised schedule will look like at OP's meeting with members of the Community Advisory Committee which will take place the next evening, October 26, 2021, and that she had requested OP to address the next phase of the planning first before covering two other agenda items--the vision and goals document (feedback received) and community meetings. And if OP

were to rush to finish by year end, she and others on the committee would ask for a rationale. Chair Speck moved to table the motion until the ANC's November 8, 2021 meeting. The motion to table was not adopted by a 3-to-2 vote.

Vice Chair Gore and Commissioner Zeldin said they saw no harm in approving the resolution as a statement of the Commission's view. Commissioner Higgins texted Chair Speck that he favored delay. Chair Speck expressed his view that an ANC resolution is unnecessary when commissioners can call the agency officials and get answers, which Higgins agreed with when he shared his view over the phone. Speck described the resolution at issue as "just more of our talk.

"People are going to stop listening to us if we keep passing these resolutions," Speck said.

The proposed resolution was not adopted by a vote 2 (Yes), 4 (No), 0 (Abstain).

[02:05:09](#)

Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee Update

Vice Chair Gore said that after the discussion, the Committee adopted a mission statement and asked that the Commission approve it. The mission of the Committee is "to raise awareness about the legacy of historical racism in our community and effectuate positive change that is based on justice, equity, diversity and fairness." The ANC approved the statement. The vote was 6 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain).

[02:15:16](#)

Discussion & Vote on Testimony to the District Council

The Commission discussed testimony to be delivered by Vice Chair Gore on the confirmation of Everett Lott as director of the District's Department of Transportation (DDOT) and separate testimony by Chair Speck on the "Removal and Disposition of Abandoned and Otherwise Unlawfully Parked Vehicles Reform Amendment Act of 2021." Commissioners agreed that Director Lott must recognize that DDOT suffers from chronic mismanagement and must be able to articulate specific plans for making improvements. The commissioners focused especially on the #311 service request system that residents are supposed to use to alert the department to problems, but only sporadically and randomly results in those problems being corrected. They were also concerned about the Department's public engagement record. Asked to summarize the testimony, Gore responded "We are basically saying that DDOT needs to get itself together." The ANC approved the testimony 6-to-0.

Concerning abandoned vehicles, Speck said that current law requires that two of four criteria be met for the Department of Public Works (DPW) to consider a vehicle abandoned and tow it, and several of those criteria are subjective. Under the proposed legislation, the requirement would be reduced to just one factor, the most important being whether a vehicle's registration has been expired for more than a year. Speck said the testimony suggests the Council consider reducing the length of expired registration to six months. The Commission approved the testimony 6-to-0.

[02:36:26](#)

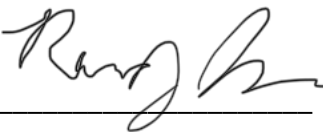
Committee Business

The ANC approved minutes for its September 13 and 27, 2021 meetings on a 6-to-0 vote. It approved by the same margin checks payable to the US Treasury for \$96.39; to Chair Speck for the Commission's Zoom subscription for \$222.58, to Verizon for \$156.54, to Michael Zeldin for a sign for \$59.36, to the US Post Service for box rental for \$176, and to Commissioner Higgins for office/printer expenses in the amount of \$42.39.

[02:49:07](#)

Adjourn

APPROVED at a regular public meeting notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of four of six (6) members was present on November 8, 2021, by a vote of **6** (Yes), **0** (No), **0** (Abstain).



Randy Speck, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary