



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

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**Testimony before the
Redistricting Subcommittee
Ward 3 Hearing
October 22, 2021**

Chairperson Silverman and members of the Subcommittee on Redistricting, I am Randy Speck, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Single Member District (SMD) 3/4G03 (Chevy Chase). Thank you for the opportunity to testify at the roundtable on the Ward Redistricting Amendment Act of 2021 (B24-371), focusing on Ward 3 redistricting. I am testifying today as commissioner for my SMD, not on behalf of my commission.

I have represented this SMD — which includes portions of both Ward 3 and Ward 4 — since January 2013 and have been chair of ANC 3/4G since January 2015. I was also involved as a resident when the ward boundaries between Wards 3 and 4 were redrawn based on the 2000 census to include both wards within our ANC's boundaries. We are the only ANC that straddles two wards, and my SMD is the only SMD in the District that

includes residents from two wards. In 2015, we renamed ourselves ANC 3/4G to reflect an almost even split between wards. I live in Ward 4.

While there was some trepidation in 2001 when the ward boundaries were redrawn, it has worked extraordinarily well. Part of the redistricting in 2001 was based on the important principle the neighborhoods should remain intact, and ANCs should retain their geographic boundaries. Our ANC boundaries retained the historic neighborhoods of Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne.

Our experience over the last 20 years has proved the wisdom of our ANC's boundaries that span Wards 3 and 4. Two benefits have been particularly evident. First, our connections with Ward 4 have been strengthened as we have identified shared interests. Most recently, we worked with the Brightwood commissioners and neighborhood in Ward 4 on the use of the historic Military Road School. By working with that community, we agreed with the Brightwood residents that this newly acquired facility should be used as an early education center available to pre-kindergarten students from across the District — not as a pre-K exclusively for Lafayette. This vision has been realized with the opening of the school in September. The fact that we are all part of Ward 4 was a substantial catalyst for making this joint decision happen. We have now established lasting connections with our colleagues across the Park.

Second, we have appreciated having two councilmembers who could assist us and guide us on projects that affect both wards. For instance, Lafayette Elementary School draws students from Wards 3 and 4, and Councilmembers Cheh and Lewis George have

been strong advocates for our local school. Similarly, the Chevy Chase Community Center and Library serve the broader community on both sides of the Park. Both Councilmembers attended our Chevy Chase DC Day in September and expressed their support for this shared facility. Finally, we expect that our current work on a Small Area Plan along the Connecticut Avenue corridor south of Chevy Chase Circle will energize the broader area that extends well into Ward 4 and brings the communities closer together.

In sum, despite early reservations, the current ward configuration has worked well. The Council should retain the current boundaries between Ward 3 and Ward 4 in the Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne neighborhoods.

Thank you.