

**WRITTEN TESTIMONIES BY RESIDENTS SUBMITTED TO
ANC 3/4G HOSTED SPECIAL MEETING ON REDISTRICTING
HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2021**

LIST OF TESTIMONIES IN ORDER OF RECEIPT

ABRAHAM CLAYMAN

Email to Commissioners Gore, Zeldin, and Speck

Dated November 28, 2021, 7:26 pm

Hi Commissioners Gore, Zeldin, and Speck,

Here's what i wrote to the Council after their subcommittee held a hearing on Ward 4. In short, I'm hopeful that the Council leaves our neighborhoods within Ward 4. Thanks for asking for my input.

My full comment:

Hi,

My name is Abe Clayman and I've been a resident of Ward 4 since 2014. I was also an ANC Commissioner from 2017-2020. I'd like to echo the comments of Randy Speck, ANC3/4G's chair, when he recently spoke at the Ward 4 redistricting hearing. The neighborhoods of Hawthorne, Barnaby Woods, and Chevy Chase should remain part of Ward 4. Our ANC had the opportunity on multiple occasions to collaborate with residents east of the park because we were part of one ward. This was true with respect to the Military Road School and also with respect to issues of public safety as well. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it's that the problems of one part of our city/community/country affect us all. In that spirit, I hope you keep Ward 4 as is. It also just seems like it creates a lot of new issues (with other ward boundaries) to put our part of Ward 4 back in Ward 3.

Thanks for doing what you do and for taking this on!

Abe Clayman
Beech St. NW
Washington, DC

JENNIE MALLOY

Email to Commissioner Gore

Dated November 29, 2021, 6:38 pm

Dear Redistricting Subcommittee:

As a lifelong Hawthorne resident and native Washingtonian for 67 years, I am asking to please keep Hawthorne in Ward 4. For decades, Hawthorne was known for its landscaped yards and suburban-like atmosphere, much like a "Leave it to Beaver" neighborhood where neighbors are, well, neighborly.

Our representation by Ward 4 DC Councilmembers in the last decade has been superb. We had Muriel Bowser, Brandon Todd, and today, Janeese Lewis George. They do not forget us. Muriel Bowser became the DC Mayor. She must have been doing something right for Ward 4 to get elevated to that position. Brandon Todd looked out for seniors and remembered all of us by our first names, making us feel special. His staff even came to my home and shoveled my sidewalk during the brutal snowstorms. I will never forget that. Our new Councilmember Lewis George took the time to have a Zoom virtual roundtable to hear Hawthorne residents' concerns about the closure of Beach Drive. She was attentive, amiable, and stood by us. She did not let politics direct her advocacy in the wrong direction. Our new ANC Commissioner Lisa Gore has been a godsend to Hawthorne. What a breath of fresh air to have somebody actually remembering Hawthorne when advocating for the community's betterment, unlike previous ANC commissioners. For the first time that I can remember, Hawthorne is in good hands all the way around, from ANC to the Ward 4 Councilmember and all the way up to the Mayor.

Hawthorne is in a good place now in Ward 4. We have real advocates representing us, giving us a voice, and hearing our concerns. If they put us back in Ward 3, we will be forgotten, used and abused for redistricting-only purposes, and not have the excellent representation we have today.

If you want to take Barnaby Woods and put that in Ward 3, then talk to those residents and see how they feel about it. But, as a lifelong Hawthorne resident and a native Washingtonian for 67 years, please do not ruin what we have today. Hawthorne is our little slice of heaven, and we're happy to be in Ward 4 where we are treated like people and not numbers on a vote ballot.

Thank you for reading my email.

Jennie Malloy

7040 31st Street NW

WDC 20015

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jamalloy-at-AOL-dot-com

LANNING E. MOLDAUER
Email sent to Commissioner Gore
Dated November 30, 2021, 12:41 pm

I think you owe us a transparent and more substantial examination of redistricting issues led by our ANC. The three of us hated being moved from a ward where we'd lived for decades. As you know, division of the neighborhood was manifestly unwelcome 20 years ago. Please restore Ward 3's original boundaries.

Thank you,
Lanny, Barbara, Alex Moldauer
5619 33rd Street, NW

JOHN FUNDERBURK
Email to Commissioner Zeldin
Dated December 1, 2021, 1:43 pm

Dear Michael,

My name is John Funderburk and I live at 6636 31st Pl NW, Washington, DC 20015. I'm writing to you ahead of tonight's meeting in strong support of the Chevy Chase/Barnaby Woods area to be included in Ward 3. Born at Columbia Hospital for Women, I'm a Washington, DC native and keenly aware of how our citizens are represented - from ANC, to Council to (not) Congress. The most important rights we DC residents have (or should have) is a voice with our elected officials. As a resident of Ward 4 I don't feel I have that voice.

I feel being a resident of Ward 3 will give my family and neighbors more input on local issues that matter to us like the redevelopment of Connecticut Ave and Chevy Chase Circle. I know many of my neighbors and fellow voters feel the same way - that our neighborhood should be reunited into Ward 3.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best regards,
John

SUSAN ST. MAXENS
Email to Commissioner Zeldin
Dated December 1, 2021, 2:18 pm

Dear Mr Zeldin,

We are writing to let you know that we endorse the proposed CC/BW map that is being considered in tonights special meeting of ANC 3/4G that would put us back in Ward 3. We would like to be represented by you, as part of the Chevy Chase community where we live.

Thank you,

Susan St. Maxens
6638 32nd Pl, NW
Washington, DC 20015

PATRICIA WATSON
Email to Commissioner Zeldin
Dated December 1, 2021, 3:28 pm

Michael,

I have been a resident and registered voter residing at 6676 32nd Pl., NW for 54 years. I highly support a return of our registration from Ward 4 to Ward 3. Formerly in Ward 3 I attended civic meetings and took part in political activity. I did not do so in Ward 4.

I appreciate any endorsement you can provide for this to happen.

Patricia Watson

CAROL GRUNEWALD AND JEREMY RIFKIN
Email sent to all commissioners
Dated December 1, 2021, 3:30 pm

Dear Commissioner,

Our family has lived in Chevy Chase DC for more than three decades. Our particular section of Chevy Chase had been in Ward 3 until 2001 when it was re-assigned to Ward 4 along with the housing developments of Barnaby Woods and Hawthorne.

Our family, and many of our immediate Chevy Chase neighbors, would like to be re-assigned to, and re-united with, Ward 3. And we support bringing Barnaby Woods and Hawthorne back into Ward 3 as well.

We understand that the re-assignment from Ward 3 to Ward 4 had been made to create equitable voting districts — which, of course, we all favor. However, we understand that the Council is now re-examining Ward boundaries and that there may be a chance that we can maintain equitable voting districts while, at the same time, return this portion of Chevy Chase — and hopefully Barnaby Woods and Hawthorne as well -- to Ward 3.

As lifelong Democrats and citizens who love our country, we abhor the unnatural and cynical redistricting that has been undertaken by Republicans throughout our country over many years. We strongly oppose gerrymandering undertaken by any party. Instead, we believe that voting district boundaries should follow as closely as possible the natural physical features of the land and the history of our communities — indeed, we believe that this is what federal guidelines on redistricting require.

Chevy Chase DC, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne are long-standing and distinct neighborhoods that are united by the commercial core of Connecticut Ave. and bounded by the huge natural feature of Rock Creek National Park. While we understand that the reassignment from Ward 3 to Ward 4 was made for good reason at the time, it has never felt natural for us to be part of Ward 4. Our neighborhood is Chevy Chase, but our Ward assignment is with neighborhoods on the other side of Rock Creek Park and 16th St., areas that we rarely frequent.

When considering boundaries for our Wards we should consider not only natural features, but also where in the community people shop and gather, where their children go to school, and where they can easily walk. The core of the neighborhood of Chevy Chase is the Connecticut Ave. commercial strip. This is where residents of CCDC shop, eat out, and use the library. The children of Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne go to school in Chevy Chase. People can easily walk within Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne — but no one from these neighborhoods is walking the dangerous strip of Military Rd. through Rock Creek Park to get to the neighborhoods on the other side.

Our ANC representative Randy Speck has said that he supports keeping our community divided into two Wards stating that we get double the attention from our representatives that way. My family and neighbors strongly disagree with Mr. Speck's opinion. And we are shocked and dismayed that someone who is supposed to represent us, his constituents, would support the continued division of our neighborhood.

On the contrary, since our re-assignment to Ward 4 our small Chevy Chase neighborhood has felt almost like a pawn between political rivals. The fact is that, for the past several years, our portion of Chevy Chase has received abysmal representation from our former Ward 4 Councilman Brandon Todd. To take one example: Our immediate neighborhood organized a neighborhood walk-through with Mr. Todd on May 6, 2016. Nearly 3 dozen residents of three streets in our immediate neighborhood spent hours showing Mr. Todd all the badly-needed infrastructure repairs that we needed. After this whole production, not one repair on our list was ever made — even after follow-up calls and emails were made to his office. He never came through for us — and we still need these repairs today!

Mr. Todd's newsletters featured residents and problems that exist in other parts of Ward 4 — but not our little slice of Chevy Chase in Ward 4. And this makes sense, really, because our neck of Chevy Chase is just a tiny portion of Ward 4 that includes the neighborhoods of Brightwood, Colonial Village, Crestwood, Fort Totten, Petworth, Riggs Park, Shepherd Park, Sixteenth St. Heights, and Takoma. We didn't get Mr. Todd's attention because Chevy Chase — and Barnaby Woods and Hawthorne — have different concerns than many of the other neighborhoods he was responsible for.

The Ward 3 Councilmember is much more attuned to our concerns because she represents Chevy Chase — our neighborhood. After our experience with the former Ward 4 Councilmember our family decided to act as though the Ward 3 Councilmember was still our representative. So, since 2016, we have consulted the Ward 3 Councilmember on a variety of subjects of concern to us including: development plans for the Chevy Chase portion of Connecticut Ave., the city's plans to provide charging stations for owners of electric vehicles in Chevy Chase, wildlife and animal protection issues, environmental issues including pesticide drift from pesticide applicators, traffic concerns, and other issues of great concern to our family and neighbors. Unfortunately, the Ward 3 Councilmember can't help our street with infrastructure repairs — because we're in Ward 4. But the staff of the Ward 3 Councilmember has been very responsive to our other concerns that affect the greater Chevy Chase community.

One very major concern that the residents of Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods and Hawthorne share — that Ward 4 neighborhoods do not — is the future redevelopment of the Connecticut Ave. commercial corridor in Chevy Chase — which is in Ward 3. Although our house is only 9/10ths of a mile from the heart of this commercial core, and we have spent a good deal of our lives in those few blocks, we, as residents of Ward 4, have no representation in how the commercial district in our very own neighborhood is going to be developed! Because residents of Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne and our little slice of Chevy Chase are in Ward 4 more than 8,000 residents whose commercial district is being redeveloped will have no say in the future of our own little "downtown."

This division of our community into two wards is unnatural and is resulting in unfairness and conflict. We therefore support, and ask our representatives to endorse, the redistricting map submitted by Adam Taylor, which restores the Ward 4 part of Chevy Chase, as well as Barnaby Woods and Hawthorne, to Ward 3.

Thank you —

Carol Grunewald and Jeremy Rifkin
5305 28th St. NW
Washington, DC 20015

AMY SCHEAR
Email to Commissioner Zeldin
Dated December 1, 2021, 4:43 pm

Hey Michael,

I support us being put back into Ward 3 so we have a better idea of what is going on in our neighborhood.

Thanks,

Amy Schear

LEONARD JEWLER
Email sent to Commissioner Gore
Dated December 1, 2021, 5:01 pm

Councilmembers and ANC 3/4G Representatives,

Please see my attached statement advocating for the reunification of the three Ward 4 neighborhoods west of Rock Creek Park with Ward 3. I will not be speaking at this evening's special ANC Forum on ward redistricting but I wanted to share my thoughts on this prior to the meeting. I am a long-time resident of Washington, DC having grown up in the Georgia and Alaska neighborhood in the 1950s and 1960s and having lived in my house in Barnaby Woods since 1986. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Regards,

Leonard Jewler
Barnaby Woods

Statement on Redistricting Ward 4 Neighborhoods West of the Park to Ward 3

My name is Leonard Jewler. I was born and raised in Washington in Ward 4 in Takoma Park near Georgia and Alaska Avenues. I attended public schools at Takoma Elementary, Paul Junior High, and Coolidge High. I used to take the streetcar down Georgia Avenue to Paul and Coolidge. I lived much of my early life in Ward 4.

In 1986, I bought a house in Barnaby Woods which was in Ward 3 at the time and would remain so until 15 years later when it was redistricted as an appendage to Ward 4 which up until that point was exclusively east of the park. Just as my earlier years were spent living and shopping near my neighborhood east of the park, my recent years are spent living and shopping west of the park, in particular along upper Connecticut Avenue which is less than a mile from my house.

Recently, many changes have been proposed for the commercial strip along upper Connecticut Avenue, which is situated in Ward 3, but as a Ward 4 resident my Councilmember is not involved in these deliberations. This leaves me without representation in a local arena in which I should have a voice. I believe that the neighborhoods west of the park that are appended to Ward 4 – Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods and Hawthorne - should be reunited with Ward 3 so that we will have a voice on the city council that represents the interests of our neighborhood in matters related to the nearby commercial Connecticut Avenue and other common interests of proximate Chevy Chase neighborhoods. We also cannot vote for the Board of Education representative for the middle and high schools our children attend in Ward 3.

Absent a reunification of our neighborhoods with Ward 3, what mechanism is available for the approximately 8,300 residents of Ward 4 west to have a voice in the redevelopment of Connecticut Avenue? I argue that the three neighborhoods in Ward 4 west of the Park be reunited with Ward 3 so that we can have a voice in the transformation of our neighborhood commercial district along Connecticut Avenue and in the selection of our Board of Education representative. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Leonard Jewler
Barnaby Woods

EDWARD COHEN
Email sent to Commissioner Zeldin
Dated December 1, 2021, 5:55 pm

Michael-

I live on Aberfoyle Place, NW and am currently in Ward 4. Under the CC/BW redistricting map, our neighborhood would be re-united with Ward 3 of which we were a part when we moved here in 1983. The issues that most directly affect our neighborhood are in Ward 3, so it seems to me that it would make more sense if we were redistricted back to that Ward.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Edward B. Cohen
3125 Aberfoyle Place, NW