

ANC 3/4G July 11, 2022 Public Meeting Q&A and Chat Log

Q&A Log

Jamie Butler 7:52 PM

Are there other circles in the city with somewhat similar traffic and park features that might help us think about this? What about Logan Circle?

Chat Log

19:27:36 From Emir Gur-Ravantab to Everyone:

emir.gur-ravantab@dc.gov
202-340-7853

19:27:41 From Emir Gur-Ravantab to Everyone:

<https://ovsjg.dc.gov/page/private-security-camera-rebate-program#:~:text=A%20rebate%20is%20available%20for,%24750%20for%20all%20other%20adresses>.

19:27:45 From Emir Gur-Ravantab to Everyone:

<https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov/do-i-qualify/>

19:29:59 From Lisa Gore ANC 3/4G-01 to Everyone:

Thank you Emir!!

19:39:26 From Emir Gur-Ravantab to Host and Panelists:

Can someone tell me how many participants there are? Thanks

19:40:01 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Host and Panelists:

33 not including commissioners

19:40:18 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Host and Panelists:

Or, the panelists now on camera

19:40:29 From Connie K. N. Chang, ANC 3/4G-05 to Host and Panelists:

Total 45 attendees

19:51:43 From lee Schoenecker to Everyone:

I think that Commissioner Seldin has an excellent suggestion, if it can be done, would allow pedestrians to cross over to the Circle with a feeling of safety. And this becomes very important if there are major improvements.

20:06:52 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

Woman at Conn. House did NOT jump from the 8th floor window. Her feet were bound. She was pushed.

20:07:41 From Lisa Gore ANC 3/4G-01 to Everyone:

Thanks Carren. I thought media reported she jumped. Appreciate the clarification

20:09:33 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

Media did report that -- because the police initially said that. But Lt. Amodio at a recent ANC 3F meeting indicated that the suspect was arrested with intent to kill the woman. I questioned him very closely. He asked me why I thought the woman had jumped -- my initial impression. Very weird -- because the MPD were the source of that story.

20:10:15 From Lisa Gore ANC 3/4G-01 to Everyone:



20:17:58 From Kim Farmer to Everyone:

This is Kim Farmer from Forest Hills. I am part of the building group from PSA 203 who recently met with the Mayor and CA Donahue after speaking with DM Geldart during a ANC3F mtg. I am thankful to DM Geldart for being the first in the administration to respond to our community with honesty about missteps in housing (after years of advocates before me begging for help---for the vulnerable and their neighbors). MPD has worked their tail off for 5 years with the same results, but it all comes down to a lot of predatory landlords that will ultimately harm our most vulnerable.

20:22:42 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

This is Carren Kaston, president of the Sedgwick Gardens Tenants Association. Sedgwick Gardens is owned and managed by DARO -- as is Conn. House, the building from which the woman "fell"? was pushed" out of the 8th floor window. DARO started security guards at Sedgwick Gardens after Daniel McKinney was found stabbed to death at another DARO building half a block from the Sedgwick Gardens in May. That guard service was stopped at the end of May. There is no intention of providing ongoing security. Nor will banning visitors work -- residents go down and let the dangerous visitors in.

20:24:39 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

Can the city require landlords to provide security guards on an ongoing basis? And can the city pay the landlords to hire the guards?

20:27:37 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

Landlords are getting enough subsidized rents above market rate to have enough profit to hire guards. BUT THEY DON'T WANT TO SPEND THE PROFIT THAT WAY.

20:32:20 From Ronald Kahn to Host and Panelists:

Can a core DC wide building checklist of specific items aligned with safety / security conditions become an inspection occupancy condition required per building? Inspections also committed to be done more than annually

20:35:04 From Harry Gural to Host and Panelists:

The landlords are incentivized NOT to have adequate security because they can make much higher profits renting to people with vouchers - with no conditions. If other residents move out because of security concerns, the landlords can simply fill vacancies with other voucher holders, increasing profits.

20:36:22 From Kim Farmer to Everyone:

When a landlord is paid \$2,520 for an older studio that is \$1,200 at market, the landlord looks away. There's only so much safety efforts can do without changes to the payment standards to put them in the market universe. As far as security, it does not work for condo buildings---absent LLCs whose tenants cause the issues do not share that buffer. DCHA has repeatedly said rent payment standards should meet rent reasonableness standards (near market)--hence some of the newer efforts by Director Donald--so hearing that landlords are allowed above market rate is confusing. My understanding is that \$2,520 for a studio is supposed to be the ceiling/top amount that can be claimed by a landlord (and can access a luxury unit)....instead these landlords have flocked to Conn Ave for the highest in nation standards and claimed the luxury rate for a 60 year old, mediocre units. DCHA recently acknowledged there have been \$21 million in "overpayments" (possibly via fraud by making false claims of unit values?).

20:36:37 From Harry Gural to Host and Panelists:

Even management companies that have been threatened with lawsuits by the Attorney General continue to provide exceptionally poor security. The profit motive is too powerful.

20:37:07 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

Correction: At Sedgwick Gardens, DARO hired guards mid-May to 3rd week of June. So about 5-6 weeks.

20:40:34 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

The agencies refuse to release data about the numbers of voucher holders in different buildings, despite multiple FOIA requests. However the reporter on the 2019 Wash Post article on the problems in Sedgwick Gardens did obtain hard facts from his source in the Office of the Mayor. He published that in 2019, half the residents at Sedgwick Gardens had vouchers. Half.

20:41:37 From Kim Farmer to Everyone:

\$21 million = approx. 1,000 1br units at an avg. \$1500 for a year. That could have been an additional 1k-3k people on the waitlist served.

20:41:53 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

No specific information has been requested in the FOIAs -- nothing about names, apartment numbers.

20:42:39 From Carren Kaston to Everyone:

We have three entrances to Sedgwick Gardens. Only the front desk knows and has a chance of controlling who enters.

20:52:34 From Kathleen Gibbons to Host and Panelists:

Do the agencies have any screening tools to establish that voucher recipients are capable of peaceful, independent living in a multifamily community?

My understanding is that voucher recipients will be permitted to self certify and reject continuing care. Are you concerned?

Do existing tenants or Office of the Tenant Advocate have a voice in the task force?

20:55:18 From karen-nicole karen-nicole to Everyone:

I am the President of the Saratoga Chesapeake Tenants Association, nuisance buildings. Crime is being moved off streets and concentrated in apartment buildings. We have invited our building managers to have a regular town hall meeting with us and MPD so we can solve these problems. Horning Management is not wanting to meet with us without their legal presence, which has been retaliatory, and they are not being truthful, intentionally obfuscating the truth about the conditions in the buildings. Our community is composed of elderly, BIPOC, queer, non-BIPOC, students, working professionals, working class, parents, and many others who found rent stable safe housing in Van Ness and are being constructively evicted by the untenable situation property management fails to address. The failures of these programs continually threaten safety and quality of life. We are being tasked with a job we didn't sign up for due to the gaps and failures in these programs: helping to provide security, safety for all.

20:55:53 From Lisa Gore ANC 3/4G-01 to Everyone:

We'll get to community input very soon. Meanwhile, you can posts questions in the Q&A..

20:56:03 From Harry Gural to Host and Panelists:

Actually, the city is using housing vouchers to concentrate poverty in specific apartment buildings. The owners of those buildings embrace this as a business strategy. Sedgwick Gardens, Connecticut House, the Saratoga, the Chesapeake, 3003 Van Ness, 4000 Mass Ave, the Rodman, the Parkwest, and others.

20:57:11 From karen-nicole karen-nicole to Everyone:

Our front desk staff have been viciously attacked by tenants including voucher holders (identified as such by employees) in which two employees were viciously beaten with a six foot pole. I witnessed this assault and others. Firearms are regularly found in the buildings. Violent attacks of residents and employees, drug usage, drug sales, prostitution regularly occur in the buildings. We have met with Horning Management and their position is they are powerless to do anything and that residents must appeal to DC Council to fix problems in our buildings.

20:57:11 From Rob Leardo to Everyone:

What about controls like screening out potential problems at the casework/case agency level for housing better for their needs, like Centrally Run Facilities, halfway houses, etc.

20:57:19 From Kim Farmer to Everyone:

Follow the \$\$\$. PSA 203 (Forest Hills, Van Ness, Cleveland Park) violent crime rate went up 41% since the rates went way up. It was the #1 increase in the city while the rest of the city went down, despite all of MPD's endless efforts.

20:57:28 From Chris Geldart to Rob Leardo, Host and Panelists:

Chris Geldart

20:57:50 From Chris Geldart to Rob Leardo, Host and Panelists:

Chris.geldart@dc.gov 202-297-7679

21:00:41 From Harry Gural to Host and Panelists:

Good point, Carren.

21:07:58 From karen-nicole karen-nicole to Everyone:

Speaking to Carren's point about banning buildings: Horning Management said the armed burglars at the Saratoga Chesapeake were given fobs to enter the building by tenants who lived in the buildings.

21:21:46 From Harry Gural to Host and Panelists:

Link to letter to DCHA objecting to denial of its refusal to provide information requested via FOIA. <https://bit.ly/DCHA-overturn-FOIA-rejection-PDF>

21:26:05 From Kim Farmer to Host and Panelists:

Thank you for allowing your neighbors to the south to share our experience. Peter--My email is washingtondc7@gmail.com