



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

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**Resolution Reporting the Action of the 2021-2022
Commission on the 2020 Task Force on Racism’s
Community, Education and Mental Health, and Housing
Work Group Recommendations
December 12, 2022**

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:

1. On June 8, 2020, the Commission adopted a Statement on Racism and created a Task Force¹ to identify equity and justice issues within our community and to propose concrete solutions.
2. On July 13, 2020, the Commission discussed a framework for the Task Force to guide its work, including its mission, organization, and timetable².
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

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

² Framework for ANC 3/4G’s Task Force on Racism, July 13, 2020, available at [https:// bit.ly/2AIW1Ex](https://bit.ly/2AIW1Ex).

attended³. The Task Force was 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.

4. Each of the working groups presented its draft report and recommendations at the Commission’s October 26, 2020 meeting⁴. Following the meeting, the working groups made some changes to the reports. Based on the revised draft reports, the Commission held a “town hall” meeting on November 16, 2020, to get community comments and questions⁵. About 40 residents attended the town hall, in addition to four current commissioners and 16 members of the Task Force.

5. On December 14, 2020, the Commission passed a resolution⁶ commending the Task Force working groups for the substantial work that went into their reports. The resolution noted that in light of the breadth and complexity of the issues, 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 Task Force should continue its work assisting the Commission, at the Commission’s direction, in its ongoing community engagement and development of implementation strategies and any additional action on the working group reports for consideration should be deferred to 2021.

6. The Task Force was asked to develop realistic steps that the Commission could take and prepare a comprehensive report with its findings and recommendations for the Commission’s consideration. The working groups were not requested to provide implementation strategies for its final recommendations.

7. Due to the substantial discussions and considerations of the working group reports and the recommendations contained within, the Commission adopted the working group recommendations over several properly noticed public meetings in 2021. The Community, Housing, and Education and Mental Health Work Group recommendations were adopted at

³ The minutes of that meeting are available at <https://bit.ly/2IXKJ2S>, and the video is available at https://youtu.be/dwjeMw_gKUI beginning at 00:31:05.

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

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

⁶ ANC Resolution Regarding the Task Force on Racism <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/ANC-34G-Resolution-Regarding-Task-Force-on-Racism-12-14-20-signed.pdf>

public meetings held on January 25, 2021⁷, February 4, 2021⁸ (Special Meeting), March 22, 2021⁹, and April 12, 2021¹⁰, respectively.

RESOLVED:

1. The Commission accepts the resolution herein as a valid report of previous Commission actions taken with regard to the 20 recommendations from the Task Force on Racism's Community, Education and Mental Health, and Housing Work Groups, as amended by the Commission and approved either unanimously or by majority vote of the separate recommendations.

COMMUNITY WORK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the Community Work Group's analysis, the Group believed it was important to establish a process that: 1) provides an overview of Chevy Chase history; 2) establishes a guiding framework; and 3) delves into specific recommendations for the future of Chevy Chase DC. The Community Work Group's eight recommendations focuses on three areas: 1) Community Input and Awareness; 2) Physical Environment; and 3) District Policies/Programs.

Recommendation 1: Establish a Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee. This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC's regularly scheduled public meeting held on January 25, 2021.

Recommendation 2: The Commission tasks the Standing Committee on Racial and Social Equity to study the recommendation to create a Racial Response Network and develop an implementation plan for further Commission consideration. In doing so, the standing committee will take into full consideration resources, benefits, risks, and community engagement and feedback in its final recommendations to the Commission. This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC's regularly scheduled public meeting held on January 25, 2021.

⁷ Zoom link to the 1/25/2021 meeting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulWVlqs_2g8&t=1835s

⁸ Zoom link to the 2/4/2021 meeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQtpFH0W-TQ&t=32s>

⁹ Zoom link to the 3/22/2021 meeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVB1xQsbMI0&t=4555s>

¹⁰ Zoom link to the 4/12/2021 meeting <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHZExE2JJw>

Recommendation 3: Create a website to share information and resources. This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s regularly scheduled public meeting held on January 25, 2021¹¹.

Recommendation 4: Foster partnerships with other organizations. This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s regularly scheduled public meeting held on January 25, 2021.

Recommendation 5: The Commission tasks the Standing Committee on Racial and Social Equity to study the recommendation to propose community survey questions and develop an implementation plan for further Commission consideration. This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s regularly scheduled public meeting held on January 25, 2021.

Recommendation 6: The Commission tasks the standing committee on Racial and Social Equity to study the recommendation to create Community Center space for events and activities supporting racial equity and inclusion, and develop an implementation plan for consideration in collaboration with the Small Area Plan. This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s scheduled special public meeting held on February 4, 2021¹².

Recommendation 7: Facilitate ongoing work regarding Newlands fountain and naming issues, including appropriate education measures. This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s scheduled special public meeting held on February 4, 2021.

Recommendation 8: Support District Programs and Policies to achieve racial and social equity within our community. This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s scheduled special public meeting held on February 4, 2021.

HOUSING WORK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

The Housing Work Group was tasked to explore ways to begin to reverse the exclusionary housing practices of the past by encouraging a variety of housing options that will be attainable for residents with a wider range of incomes and backgrounds. Creating meaningful affordable housing must be a multi-pronged, multi-year, sustained effort to be successful. The wider community will need to be involved in every step. Both government and private resources will have to be marshaled to achieve the common objective of a more diverse, inclusive community.

¹¹ Link to the ANC’s 1/25/2021 meeting minutes <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Minutes-1-25-2021-.pdf>

¹² Link to the ANC’s 2/4/2021 special meeting minutes <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Special-Meeting-Minutes-2-4-2021-.pdf>

The seven recommendations below outline actions that the Commission can take to address that historical inequity in housing.

Recommendation 1: The Commission advises the District to build significant dedicated affordable housing and work force housing with a focus on households earning 50% or less of median family income (MFI) above the Chevy Chase Community Center and the Chevy Chase Library and includes five key actions.

Key Actions:

- Key Action 1: The Commission advises the Office of Planning to include mixed-income housing with a goal of at least 50% dedicated affordable housing as part of the Small Area Plan and considering other requirements;
- Key Action 2: The Commission advises the District that the development include a mix of affordable and workforce housing for families including, to the maximum extent practicable, ownership by residents;
- Key Action 3: The Commission advises the District to work with a coalition of non-profit and for-profit developers and the community;
- Key Action 4: The Commission will work with the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development to prepare a financing plan that may include participation by community groups, businesses, and foundations; and
- Key Action 5: The Commission will establish a mechanism for the ANC to coordinate programmatic requirements and architectural design with all relevant stakeholders.

This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC's regularly scheduled public meeting held on March 22, 2021¹³.

Recommendation 2: The Commission advises the District to include as part of the Chevy Chase Small Area Plan process ways to encourage the development of affordable housing in private development along the Chevy Chase Gateway (upper Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor), with a focus on the production of units for households earning 50% and below of median family income (MFI) and includes four key actions.

Key Actions:

- Key Action 1: The Commission advises the Office of Planning that, as part of this development, the ANC supports the goal of at least 25% affordable housing, with a focus on households earning 50% or less of MFI, considering other requirements as well;
- Key Action 2: The Commission advises the Office of Planning to hold a charrette as part of a Small Area Plan to explore possibilities for development in the Chevy Chase Gateway (upper Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor);

¹³ Link to the ANC's 3/22/2021 meeting minutes <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/3-22-2021-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

- Key Action 3: In coordination with Chevy Chase Main Street, the Office of Planning, local businesses, property owners, and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the Commission will solicit development proposals for mixed-use buildings along the Chevy Chase Gateway (upper Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor) consistent with opportunities identified in the Small Area Plan; and
- Key Action 4: The Commission will establish a mechanism for the ANC to work on the Chevy Chase Gateway (upper Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor) Small Area Plan and subsequent implementation.

This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s regularly scheduled public meeting held on March 22, 2021.

Recommendation 3: The ANC advises the District to preserve and protect affordability of currently affordable rental units and agrees as a Commission to study the issue. It includes two key actions.

Key Actions:

- Key Action 1: The Commission requests that the Office of Planning establish criteria for identifying “naturally occurring” affordable housing and determine the amount of such naturally occurring affordable housing in an area; and
- Key Action 2: The Commission requests that the Office of Planning establish protocols for how market-rate, naturally occurring affordable housing properties can be preserved and protected.

This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s regularly scheduled public meeting held on March 22, 2021.

Recommendation 4: The Commission advises the District to encourage the Council to update the District’s rent control law and includes one key action.

Key Action:

- The Commission tasks the Standing Committee on Racial and Social Equity to study proposals to extend the coverage of rent control in the context of addressing historic racism, including making the law permanent.

This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC’s regularly scheduled public meeting held on March 22, 2021.

Recommendation 5: The Commission agrees to study ways to include affordable housing in residential areas without disrupting the look and feel of the neighborhood with the aim of making units affordable for households earning 50% or less of median family income (MFI) and includes two key actions.

Key Actions:

- The Commission tasks the Standing Committee on Racial and Social Equity to study ways to reduce the shortage of affordable housing in the community, especially for low-income (50%-80% MFI) and very low-income (less than 50% MFI) households; and
- The Commission will study ways to address community concerns about the impact of affordable housing in residential areas of existing neighborhoods.

This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC's regularly scheduled public meeting held on March 22, 2021.

Recommendation 6: The Commission tasks the Standing Committee on Racial and Social Equity to study the track record of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) at producing affordable housing, including households earning 50% or less of MFI. If the Standing Committee concludes ADUs have a positive affordable housing track record, the Commission will examine ways to streamline the permitting, licensing, and zoning process for ADUs and whether granting subsidies or incentives can promote ADU development with enforceable commitments that the ADU will be rented or sold at affordable rates.

This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC's regularly scheduled public meeting held on March 22, 2021.

Recommendation 7: The ANC believes Housing Choice vouchers should be part of the community's mix of affordable housing development. The Commission opposes discriminatory treatment of voucher holders by local landlords or others. The Commission calls for voucher holders to be afforded the social and support services they are owed by the District.

This recommendation passed 7 (Yes), 0 (No), 0 (Abstain) at the ANC's regularly scheduled public meeting held on March 22, 2021.

EDUCATION AND MENTAL HEALTH WORK GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

In an increasingly prosperous, gentrifying and unequal city and region, race-based Education and Mental Health challenges and disparities in DC exist and persists across neighborhoods despite some recent pre-pandemic progress. In our Chevy Chase neighborhood, the relatively high median household income and cost of housing limit internal disparities, but position our community at the privileged end of disparities between our community and others across DC. We must work to help change this current situation. In keeping with the Task Force on Racism's objective to focus on substantive issues and propose realistic steps that the Commission can take, the Education and Mental Health Work Group proposed action on five key issues to reduce this race-based imbalance by having the new Standing Committee on Racial Justice and Social Equity carry out the five areas of ongoing work proposed below, in accordance with the identified goals, objectives, and activities:

1. Reducing Education Financing Inequalities
2. Deepening Anti-Racism Curriculum
3. Community Engagement
4. Closing the Digital Technology Gap
5. Expand Social-Emotional Learning Programs

The Commission approved that the new Standing Committee on Racial and Social Equity carry out the five (5) areas of ongoing work proposed above, in accordance with the identified goals, objectives, and activities.

This recommendation passed 4 (Yes), 0 (No), 3 (Abstain) at the ANC's regularly scheduled public meeting held on April 12, 2021¹⁴. Commissioners Gore, Chang, Speck, and Zeldin voted in favor of the recommendation. Commissioners Higgins, Fromboluti, and Gosselin voted to abstain.

Recommendation 1: Reducing Education Financing Inequalities

Goal:

To achieve a more equitable distribution of all funds, public and private, by addressing existing and long-standing financial disparities among DCPS schools.

Objective:

To reduce the gap in the overall additional community-driven funding per pupil in DCPS as much as possible and ensure more adequate core DCPS funding for all schools within 2 years.

Activities:

- Form new ANC3/4G wide mechanism to a) raise funds and b) offer volunteer fundraising resources for local schools outside our area.
- Assist efforts under the new "Parent Teacher Organization Equity Study Amendment Act" proposed on February 23, 2021 to the DC Council by member Mary Cheh to "study what budgetary gaps parents are now filling...and act as a roadmap to reforming the school budget process so that schools are adequately funded and move away from relying on fundraising by parents to meet basic school needs".
- Explore ways our Lafayette-Deal-Wilson HSAs could share parent-raised funds with schools in lower-income neighborhoods.
- Assist the effort to study current local and citywide school partnership mechanisms like the DC Public Education Fund and the LES-Takoma Park Education Center Partnership.
- Research other examples of school partnership and equitable redistribution of private funding in other cities in the US.
- Publish a report on options that our HSAs at Lafayette, Deal and Wilson could consider.

¹⁴ Link to the ANC's 4/12/2022 regularly scheduled meeting minutes <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-04-12-final-Meeting-Minutes.pdf>

Recommendation 2: Deepening Anti-Racism Curriculum

Goal:

To ensure that anti-racism is a more central theme of DCPS and Lafayette Elementary School social studies and civics curriculum and instruction.

Objective:

To strengthen and accelerate Lafayette Elementary School and DCPS efforts to emphasize African-American experiences and anti-racism in the entire Social Studies and civic curriculum.

Activities:

At Lafayette Elementary School:

- Meet with the HSA, principal and staff to review current efforts underway and share proposals below and acknowledge significant recent progress emphasizing more anti-racism and African-American experience in LES curriculum and program.
- Suggest adding more Black history and anti-racism theme books in required reading lists for all Lafayette Elementary School grades as part of the school's reading program (see examples in report).
- Encourage the school and HSA to support more professional development for all school staff in culturally responsive and anti-racist teaching.

At DCPS level:

- Reach out to the DCPS social studies revision task-force and staff to strongly encourage:
 - Design and piloting of specific programs that address the needs of students in predominantly white neighborhoods and schools to learn about racism and anti-racism and to practice anti-racism in their schools and communities.
 - Development of program activities that bring school communities from different DC neighborhoods together to do joint activities in each other's neighborhoods and learn together.

Recommendation 3: Community Engagement

Goal:

Contribute to establishment of a coordinated, community-based effort across the city to achieve educational equity among all schools in the District of Columbia.

Objective:

Create a permanent, standing ANC3/4G education equity committee to investigate, communicate and advocate in support of an equitable education landscape for all children in Washington, DC.

Activities:

1. Consult with individuals and groups from across the city on achieving an equitable education landscape in DCPS, including but not limited to:
 - a. ANC residents
 - b. School networks within our ANC and Ward, such as Ward 3 Wilson Feeder Network: <https://www.w3ednet.com/>
 - c. Local education groups from all wards, such as Coalition for DC Public Schools and Communities: <http://www.c4dcpublicschools.org/>
 - d. Other ANC commissioners
 - e. the State Board of Education, particularly in Wards with at-risk schools <https://sboe.dc.gov/page/roles>
 - f. DCPS Community Actions Team_: <https://dcps.dc.gov/page/community-action-team>
2. Based on the community-wide consultations, prepare and release to the public, quarterly reports with recommendations on achieving an equitable education landscape in DCPS.
3. Propose that DCPS consider joining larger efforts to directly address urban housing and education desegregation such as the new Century Foundation Bridges Collaborative <https://production-tcf.imgix.net/app/uploads/2020/05/27070119/Bridges-Collaborative.Updated.June2020.pdf> which brings school districts and social justice organizations together to foster affordable housing and education equity corrections to systemic racism.
4. Explore ways with the Community Engagement Work Group to organize and sustain Chevy Chase community conversations and learning about racism and privilege in general and as it is manifested in our neighborhood.

Recommendation 4: Closing the Digital Technology Gap**Goal:**

Sustainably close the technology gap among DCPS students/families.

Objective:

To facilitate measures in Chevy Chase that contribute to closing the short-term pandemic-related technology gap for all Lafayette, Deal and Wilson students in our area, and to contribute to DCPS citywide efforts to permanently close learning-technology gaps for students of all DCPS schools.

Activities:

In Chevy Chase DC with our schools:

- Provide opportunities for students/parents in our neighborhood experiencing technology access problems to share what obstacles limit access and what remedies they suggest.
- Produce a short report outlining current technology gaps and current gap-closing activities underway in Lafayette, Deal, and Wilson, including how our local schools

engage with local foundations and nonprofits focused on the digital divide issue and how these meet and do not meet local student needs.

- Engage the school leadership and HSAs of local schools in discussions about how to move from pandemic response to a sustainable assurance that all students enrolled in our local schools have full working access to learning technology as needed to fully participate in school.

With DCPS across the District:

- Consider funding a research firm, empowering an on-going Racial Justice taskforce or working with other ANCs to help produce a synthesis report within 6 months for submission to the DCPS about the current technology gap situation, remedies underway, and promising efforts to build on. Topics could include:
 - the status of current digital divide efforts underway in DCPS and its local schools – what is underway now; what needs to be done to make these sustainable and included in DCPS budget/program plans going forward?
 - the status of corporate and philanthropic support for a city-wide DCPS Ed Tech effort. What are the results thus far? Which gaps remain?
 - the status of the DC Education Equity Fund digital divide effort? How was it targeted and who benefited? How are our schools linked to this effort?
 - successful responses in other localities to learn about additional things DCPS could do, especially cities that have moved toward universal broadband coverage as a baseline or norm citywide.
- Follow up the report above with engagement, perhaps through an on-going Racial Justice Taskforce, with DCPS and the DC Council to take further steps to move toward universal broadband access in our city, and a commitment to ensure all DCPS schools have a plan to ensure all students are digitally connected and enabled to learn.

Recommendation 5: Expand Social-emotional Learning (SEL) Programs

Goal:

To close the racial divide that exists with respect to social emotional learning (SEL).

Objective:

To provide more Black and Latino children in DC with an SEL education learning opportunities.

Activities:

- Write to Chancellor Lewis Ferebee and urge DCPS to evaluate the feasibility of launching a pilot program to implement evidence-based and culturally-relevant SEL programs in its schools, including studying CASEL-approved programs for their relevance to DCPS.
- Testify before the State Board of Education about the SEL program at Lafayette.

APPROVED at a regular public meeting notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of four (4) of seven (7) members was present on December 12, 2022, by a vote of 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.



Lisa R. Gore, Chair



Peter Gosselin, Secretary