



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne  
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**COMMISSIONERS**

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore      3/4G-02 – Bruce Sherman  
3/4G-03 – James Nash      3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin      3/4G-05 – Peter Lynch  
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin      3/4G-07 – Zachary Ferguson

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**ANC 3/4G Resolution**  
**Supporting the District's**  
**Participation in Lights-Out Hour DC on**  
**March 25, 2023 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.**  
**February 13, 2023**

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:**

- 1) "Earth Hour" is a voluntary, international, annual event intended to encourage individuals, communities and businesses to eliminate non-essential night lighting to reduce environmentally disruptive light pollution and save energy.
- 2) "Lights-Out Hour DC" is designed to be Washington DC's inaugural participation in Earth Hour with the same focus on light pollution and energy savings as means of pursuing the District's ambitious environmental goals, among them:
  - [Cutting DC's carbon emissions and energy consumption by half by 2032](#);
  - [Carbon-neutrality by 2050](#);
  - Encouraging [Net Zero Energy \(NZE\)](#) buildings that protect the environment and generate as much energy as they consume;
  - Conserving [DC's wildlife](#) by, inter alia, reducing light pollution.
- 3) ANC 3/4G has a longstanding concern about the effects of light pollution on the health, safety and well-being of the community and the environment and has taken steps to try to reduce it. Among those steps:

- At its [October 24, 2022 meeting](#), the ANC questioned representatives of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) about the sudden appearance of over-bright street light replacement bulbs and assigned Commissioner Gosselin and Laura Phinizy, a member of the citywide Streetlight Advisory Panel, to monitor the situation;
  - At its [January 14, 2021 special meeting](#) devoted to the subject, it approved a [resolution](#) calling for changes in the District's contract for a new citywide streetlight system to reduce brightness and minimize other adverse effects;
  - At its [February 10, 2020 meeting](#), it approved a [resolution](#) asking for the Office of Planning to address light pollution as part of its proposed amendments to the District's Comprehensive Plan;
  - The Commission [has been involved in the issue](#) since at least 2011 and established a Lighting Task Force in January of 2014.
- 4) Lighting -- and potentially overlighting -- are likely to re-emerge as a community focus later this year when, [according to DDOT](#), the District's rollout of a \$309 million replacement of the city's entire street and alley light system reaches Chevy Chase, making initiatives such as Lights Out Hour DC timely.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 5) ANC 3/4G, believing that the District needs to address the issue of overlighting, calls for the city to participate in Lights-Out Hour DC from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. March 25, 2023 and in future years;
- 6) The Commission encourages residents, businesses the community and the District government to shut off or dim non-essential lights during the hour and to study whether the affected lights could be kept off or dimmed on a regular basis.

**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 February 13, 2023, by a vote of **X** yes, **X** no, **X** abstentions

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Lisa R. Gore, Chair

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James L. Nash, Secretary