



**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, Chair 3/4G-02 - Bruce Sherman, Secretary
3/4G-03 - James Nash 3/4G-04 - Michael Zeldin 3/4G-05 - Peter Lynch
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin, Vice Chair 3/4G-07 - Zachary Ferguson, Treasurer

**ANC 3/4G Resolution
Concerning the Use of Artificial Turf
July 22, 2024**

WHEREAS:

1. ANC 3/4G has long been attentive to the health and safety and environmental issues concerning our Chevy Chase community specifically and, more broadly, citywide.
2. The ANC wants to ensure safe, playable athletic fields, and a healthy environment for all children who use DC fields whether residents or guests participating in youth athletics. Presently, DC athletic fields citywide are a mix of turf and grass fields.
3. Current policy for both public and private facilities appears to favor artificial turf over natural grass because of its perceived lower installation and maintenance costs, its year-round playability as well as concerns about energy, labor, and environmental costs associated with maintaining grass fields within the Chevy Chase community and across the District of Columbia as a whole.
4. New scientific evidence raises questions about the safety of turf fields both for their users (most notably for heat, possible exposure to toxic chemicals, and

injury-related reasons) and as a matter of the environment (most notably because of chemical runoff and disposal-related issues).

- 5. These emerging discoveries caution that the short-term perceived benefits of turf may be outweighed by the long-term health and safety as well as environmental risks associated with these products.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

6. ANC 3/4G calls upon the DC Council to hold hearings/take testimony on the state of scientific evidence related to artificial turf fields as well as the feasibility of requiring District and private owners to switch from turf to grass. Such hearings are a necessary prerequisite to setting appropriate policy guidelines/enactment of legislation regarding the installation of turf fields citywide. (Attached to this resolution are the links to three town halls on these subjects undertaken by Commissioner Sherman as well as their summaries of findings. ANC 3/4G would be happy to continue to work on these matters with the Council.)

7. Pending a final determination by the Council, ANC 3/4G strongly encourages all public and private athletic field operators — including Maret, St Johns, Blessed Sacrament, Murch, Lafayette, and Jackson-Reed— to use grass in favor of turf. Maret (at the field located at the Episcopal Center for Children) and the City (at the field located at Lafayette Elementary) have the opportunity to lead by example.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

- 8. That the Commission designates the Commissioners Michael Zeldin, ANC 3/4G-04, Commissioner Bruce Sherman, ANC 3/4G-02, and Commission Chair, Lisa R. Gore, ANC 3/4G-01 to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

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 July 22, 2024, by a vote of X yes, X no, X abstentions.

Lisa R. Gore, Chair

Bruce Sherman, Secretary