



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

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne
5601 Connecticut Avenue N.W. P.O. Box 6252 Washington, D.C. 20015
3G@anc.dc.gov | <http://www.anc3g.org> | YouTube: ANC3G |

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**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 and legality of requiring all District and private owners to switch from turf to grass. Such hearings are a necessary prerequisite to setting appropriate policy guidelines and for the enactment of legislation that will withstand the foreseeable legal challenges regarding limiting the installation of turf fields citywide.

7. The ANC strongly urges the Council to consider issuing a moratorium on all public projects while it undertakes this review.

8. ANC 3/4G encourages all private athletic field operators citywide (Maret, St Johns, Blessed Sacrament in our SMD) to abide by any such moratorium and/or to voluntarily install grass in favor of turf on a going forward basis. In particular, Maret, (at the field located at the Episcopal Center for Children) has the opportunity to lead by example.

9. ANC 3/4G advises the DC Council to review and consider amending the Safe Fields and Playgrounds Act of 2018 (a) to incorporate and apply the Act's relevant provisions to private as well as public playing fields to safeguard all District children and (b) to include mandatory testing of all existing DC artificial turf fields for PFAS chemicals.

10. ANC 3/4G recommends that the Department of Parks and Recreation develop more precise guidelines for play on District artificial turf fields during

hot weather, including setting temperature and heat index levels and prescribed pauses or restrictions in activity.

11. ANC 3/4G would be happy to extend the work on these matters begun with the three town halls organized by Commissioner Sherman on March 26, April 6, and May 30 and consult with the Council on its hearings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

12. 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