


**From:** Gore, Lisa (SMD 3G01) 3G01@anc.dc.gov   
**Subject:** Proposed By-Law Changes - Summary Spreadsheet and Gore Feedback  
**Date:** September 4, 2025 at 12:49 AM  
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Commissioners,

Attached is an Excel spreadsheet organizing the proposed By-Law changes submitted by Commissioner Sherman. The proposed changes were submitted timely and are ready for your consideration at the ANC's September 9, 2025, Regular Public meeting.

The spreadsheet is in a format that is widely used and recommended by Parliamentarians. By-Laws changes are in essence a motion, and like every motion, it is critical to know what you are voting on. Thus, Parliamentarians will present the changes in a manner for the body to see the new language in comparison to the current language. Thus, the spreadsheet is organized by:

1. Current language of the suggested Article and Section to be amended
2. Proposed language - which includes a layover of the current language. Specifically:
  - a. Current language is in Black font
  - b. New language is in Green font
  - c. Language, to include punctuation, to be stricken is in Red and "strikethrough" font
3. Relevant legal reference (DC Code)
4. Relevant legal reference section of the code
5. Relevant legal language
6. Relevant legal reference web link

As you can see there are four major sections. Each section should have its own vote, as one section may be passed and others may fail. If it appears that the entire section will pass, then the Commission can certainly vote on the entire section.

Regarding Section 1 - the main body of this section. Bruce did not provide which language he proposes to delete, which is just as critical as the proposed language to add. Thus, based on his submission, I took a stab at what I believe he wants to cut. Bruce, if I got this wrong please let me know and I'll update the spreadsheet. But my understanding is his intent is to strictly limit committee membership to ANC residents ONLY, thus eliminating the language that ALLOWS local business and nonprofit membership.

Sections 2-4 all are new language.

### **My feedback on the proposed changes:**

1. Section 1- is contrary to DC Code. DC Code specifically states, "Each Commission may involve representatives of other neighborhood groups in the work of its standing or special committees." The Code recognizes that committee work often involves areas of expertise that ANC/Committee members do not necessarily possess, and recognizes the value of neighborhood groups, that represent our community. Our ANC specifically recognizes and encourages the involvement of

our local business community and nonprofits. To roll this back is an affront to our values as a community and ANC. More importantly, our By-Laws should not prohibit what the DC Code allows. This recommendation should be removed for that sole reason. It can be legally challenged and it is a horrible look for the ANC. I will oppose and vote no to this change.

2. Section 2 - I offer the following friendly amendment. As written, it is too vague.
  - a. **ANC Standing or Ad Hoc committee members shall be nominated both by commissioners and the public through an open call for candidates issued by the commission. The nomination process shall begin with an open call for candidates issued by the Commission. This call shall be publicly announced and published on at least four (4) different social media channels accessible to the community.**
  - b. **The open call for nominations shall remain open for a minimum of sixty (60) days, unless circumstances necessitate a shorter timeframe. In cases where a shorter timeframe is required, the Commission must unanimously agree on a new, shorter deadline, which shall not be less than seven (7) days.**
  - c. **All candidate names and relevant application materials shall be made available to all commissioners within fourteen (14) days following the conclusion of the open call period. The Committee Chairperson(s) shall request a statement of interest from all nominees prior to final selection. The statement of interest shall include the nominee's qualifications, motivation, and any other information deemed relevant by the Chairperson(s).**
  - d. **From the pool of qualified candidates, the Committee Chairperson(s) shall propose a slate of nominees for approval. The proposed slate shall be presented for approval at a Regular Public Commission meeting. Approval shall require a majority vote of the Commissioners present and voting.**
  - e. **Any nominee not selected for a committee position shall be notified in writing. The notification shall include a clear explanation of the reasons for their non-selection.**
3. Section 3 - The proposal to limit ANC committee membership to no more than nine members, including the chairperson(s), is something I strongly oppose. While research on group dynamics suggests that certain sizes can facilitate effective functioning, the optimal number of committee members should ultimately be determined by the Chair(s) based on the needs of each specific committee. The best example of this is the Task Force on Racism, which had nine members and produced exemplary work and recommendations. This committee's success was largely due to the dedication, expertise, and collaborative effort of its members—many of whom exceeded that number. Limiting committee size arbitrarily risks undermining our ability to draw on diverse voices and expertise, which are vital to representing and serving our community effectively. I believe that community involvement and the ability of dedicated volunteers to contribute meaningfully should be prioritized over rigid numerical limits. Therefore, I oppose this recommendation and will vote against it.
4. Section 4 - **The idea of limiting non-Commissioner members to just two years on a committee just doesn't sit right with me. It feels - icky. It's not something supported by DC Code, which doesn't put any limits on how long community members can serve. These volunteers step up because they care about**

**Chevy Chase and want to help make our neighborhood better. Limiting their time on committees just discourages people from staying involved, and it cuts off the experience and knowledge that folks bring to the table. AND with all of this ongoing committee talk - it has already silenced the Transportation committee which was by design. Honestly, this recommendation feels like it's part of a bigger pattern—an unfair push to weaken our committees and limit community participation (of certain folks). It comes across as ruthless and unbalanced, and frankly, it doesn't reflect the spirit of Chevy Chase, which has always been about community involvement and working together. We've always valued the input and dedication of our neighbors, and I think this kind of move sends a bad message about how much we appreciate their contributions. Building real expertise takes time, and keeping community members involved is what helps us make better decisions that truly represent what we care about. Can you imagine the parent of an 8th grader that volunteers on our transportation committee working for two years for better bus service for their kid to be told after 2 years you gotta go? For no other reason but 2 years - we've had enough of you. I strongly oppose this idea because it seems more about limiting participation than encouraging it. Our ANC has always been about welcoming community voices, and I believe that's something we should keep front and center. I want to see neighbors continue to serve as long as they're willing and able—that's what makes our neighborhood strong and connected. This is a strong no vote for me.**

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