

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



### ANC 3A PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 16, 2024

**Quorum call:** Commissioners Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Jeremy Del Moral (3A04) and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present, which made a quorum. (Three of the Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

**Verification of Meeting Notice:** Commissioner Mladinov confirmed that the ANC meeting notice had been posted 7 days in advance of the meeting on the ANC 3A website, local listservs in Cleveland Park, Tenleytown, Glover Park, and McLean Gardens, and the Nextdoor e-network, meeting the requirement.

**Agenda:** Chair Bradley-Lewis made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda with one amendment to consider DDOT's Notification of Intent to reduce the speed limit on Massachusetts Avenue. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

#### **Resolutions Adopted**

*Letter to DC Department of Transportation requesting more information and extended deadline for comments on proposed reconfiguration of the Y intersection at Porter Street and 38th Street NW, addition of crosswalks, and removal of on-street parking.* DDOT had issued a Notification of Intent (NOI-24-163-TESD) to make traffic safety improvements at the intersection. The Chair made a motion to vote on the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve.

*Resolution to support installing a new crosswalk on Porter Street at Plattsburg Court* DDOT had issued a Notification of Intent (NOI 24-164-TESD) to install a crosswalk across Porter Street at the intersection with Plattsburg Court to improve pedestrian safety. The Chair made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve.

*Resolution supporting DDOT NOI to reduce speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph on Wisconsin Avenue* DDOT had issued a Notification of Intent (NOI 24-189-TESD) to change the speed limit on Wisconsin between Western Avenue and Cathedral Avenue. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve.

#### **Administrative Matters**

*Minutes of June 18 Regular Public Meeting.* The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes as presented.

*Quarterly Financial Report for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY2024.* The Chair made a motion to vote on the financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve.

**Next monthly public meeting:** Tuesday, September 17, 2024

**Adjournment:** The Chair made a motion to vote on adjourning. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

## **FULL SUMMARY**

The Chair Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. The meeting was held in “hybrid” format, virtually via Zoom and in-person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom.

The Chair asked for a roll call. Commissioners Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Jeremy Del Moral (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05) were present and participating in the meeting. Commissioner Mladinov confirmed that made a quorum. (Three of the Commissioners constitute a quorum.) Commissioner Mladinov also confirmed that 7-day notice was provided as required, using the ANC’s approved methods (ANC 3A website, email and local listservs in McLean Gardens, Cleveland Park, Tenleytown and Glover Park).

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda, with one amendment to add consideration of a new Notification of Intent received from DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) the previous day, with comments due by August 26. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the agenda with that amendment.

### **MPD Community Report**

Captain Darren Haskis of the MPD Second District did not have the crime statistics for ANC 3A but discussed several specific cases. Three robberies had been reported from 7-8 am on Sunday morning in Cleveland Park, MPD had retrieved the vehicle involved and was hoping to close the case. A carjacking of a Lyft driver at 2:45 am on Saturday night at Connecticut Avenue and Porter Street had also been closed. He also spoke about the escape of 4 teenagers from PIW. There had been an arrest but 3 were still being pursued. They were also working on the incident with a knife at the McDonald’s at Van Ness and Wisconsin a few weeks before. He said that MPD was working to close more cases, particularly the large number of thefts. CVS stores had much of the problem. David White asked again about the carjacking on January 13 on the 3000 block of Idaho. Captain Haskis did not have any updates, but would check further.

### **Discussion of DDOT Notification of Intent for traffic safety improvements at Porter and 38<sup>th</sup> Street**

In late June DDOT issued a Notification of Intent (NOI 24-163-TESD) and opened a 30-day public comment period on proposed reconfiguration of the intersection of Porter Street and 38<sup>th</sup> Street, in front of the McLean Gardens Ballroom, half a block west of Wisconsin Avenue. DDOT’s proposal followed a Traffic Safety Investigation it had conducted in response to a 311 request (part of DDOT’s TSI 2.0 program). Public comments on the proposed work were due to DDOT by August 6. Public notice is required for changes that would affect traffic movement and/or parking. The ANC had shared the notice in advance of the meeting and invited public comments before the meeting as well as at the meeting.

Christian Piñeiro, DDOT Supervisory Program Analyst for Ward 3, was participating in the meeting and described DDOT’s proposed changes. The intersection is currently a "Y" intersection with two-directional traffic on all three sides. DDOT’s plan is to create a one-directional roundabout, narrow the driving lanes, install high-visibility crosswalks on all three approaches to the circle (from Porter Street and from 38<sup>th</sup> Street), and restrict curbside parking to the required 25-feet from a crosswalk. Commissioners and members of the community shared questions and comments, including about how the restricted areas would be marked, what signs would be installed, and how many parking spaces would be removed. Mr. Piñeiro said he expected that there would be signs placed before the circle, near each crosswalk, and the restricted areas in the intersection would be delineated with paint, possibly some flexposts (as are used there currently) and some “hardening” meaning raised concrete. He committed to checking with the safety engineering staff because he details were not included in the plans provided in the NOI. He also did not have an estimate of the on-street parking spaces that would be lost. He committed to check those questions and update the Commissioners on the details. The Chair observed that an estimate of the effect on the number of available parking spaces would normally be included in the notification, and most of the

comments from residents were about concerns about loss of parking in the neighborhood. Several residents of the affected blocks commented that on-street parking is difficult to find in the area, especially in the evenings and overnight, and they do not feel safe walking any substantial distance between their vehicles and their residences.

Commissioner Mladinov proposed sending a letter to DDOT sharing the additional questions, asking for clearer illustrations or descriptions of the proposed physical infrastructure around the circle and specifically the number of on-street parking spaces that DDOT expected would be removed. In addition, she proposed asking for an extension of the time for comments beyond August. She mentioned that if the extension were not granted, it would not be possible for the ANC to adopt a resolution on the proposed project, since there was no meeting scheduled in August and the next ANC public meeting would be in mid-September. The Chair offered that the ANC could hold a special meeting between the July monthly meeting and the due date, as long as enough Commissioners could participate to make a quorum, and it could be a virtual meeting, so he would not want to say the Commission wouldn't support the proposal if the deadline were kept as August 6. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed letter to DDOT, without that final point. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve sending a letter to DDOT requesting additional information as well as an extension of the deadline for comments.

#### **DDOT Notification of Intent to add a new crosswalk on Porter Street at Plattsburg Court NW**

In June DDOT issued a notice (NOI 24-164-TESD) proposing to install a new crosswalk across Porter Street at the intersection with Plattsburg Court, to improve pedestrian safety. The NOI included an estimate that 5 parking spaces would have to be removed to provide the required 25-foot setback from the crosswalk.

<https://ddotwiki.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/NI/pages/2631172097/NOI-24-164-TESD> Currently people cross Porter Street at that intersection but there is no marked crosswalk. Several residents expressed support for the proposal, though some had concerns about the loss of parking. Questions were also raised about whether DDOT could install a raised crosswalk there. One resident also asked if DDOT could take a more holistic approach to traffic safety in the area, instead of one crosswalk or intersection at a time, since there are similar challenges with speeding and safety throughout McLean Gardens. Mr. Piñeiro described the process DDOT follows, and said there were bounds on what the agency could do because of its budget and the model it uses. The Chair made a motion to vote on a resolution supporting the proposed changes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the resolution.

#### **DDOT Notification of Intent to reduce the speed limit on Wisconsin Avenue from 30 mph to 25 mph**

DDOT had issued a notice (NOI 24-189-TESD) and opened a 30-day public comment period on a proposal to change the speed limit on Wisconsin Avenue between Western Avenue (at the DC-Maryland line) and Cathedral Avenue (just north of Massachusetts Avenue), through most of ANC 3A. South of Massachusetts Avenue, the speed limit is already 25 mph. Comments were due to DDOT by August 26 at 5 pm. See: <https://ddotwiki.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/NI/pages/2652995587/NOI-24-189+TESD> The Chair made a motion to vote on a resolution supporting the proposed change. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the resolution.

#### **Presentation by DC Office of Planning on its plan to propose zoning changes to carry out the new Wisconsin Avenue Development Guidelines adopted in February 2024**

Joel Lawson and Ron Barron of the DC Office of Planning (OP) attended the meeting to speak about OP's work to develop proposed zoning changes to carry forward the principles in the Wisconsin Avenue Development Framework. That is the document OP prepared over the past 2 years, with public review and input from affected ANCs and others, for the purpose of guiding future development on the portion of Wisconsin between Western Avenue/Friendship Heights and Rodman Street. The development framework was designed to implement the provisions of the DC Comprehensive Plan as amended in 2021. The guidelines focused on four guiding principles: prioritize housing, especially affordable housing, supported by active retail, restaurants, cultural and entertainment uses; design public spaces to

encourage walkability, connectivity, and access to public transit; design building massing and height to complement the neighborhood context and emphasize local landmarks; and design buildings to maximize availability, variety, flexibility and sustainability of housing and retail. The framework identified building height and Floor Area Ratio (FAR) targets for Wisconsin Avenue around Friendship Heights, Tenleytown, and south of Tenley, with a transition zone between Garrison and Harrison Streets to allow moderate density residential redevelopment.

The OP representatives said they were working on drafting proposed zoning language and hoping to submit it to the Zoning Commission for "setdown" of the proposed zoning changes in fall 2024. That would start the Zoning Commission's public review and comment period on the proposals, which would probably run through the beginning of 2025. OP was just beginning the process and looking for feedback from the ANCs. They had met with ANC 3E a few days before and offered to make a future presentation of the draft zoning language to the zoning committee of each affected ANC or with the full ANC. The Chair suggested that meeting with the full ANC 3A made the most sense because the ANC is very small and does not have any committees. The formal process allows an ANC to file a setdown report commenting on whether the matter is ready for setdown, and also to participate as an official party in the Zoning Commission case to consider the proposed zoning changes, after setdown.

### **Commissioner Updates**

Commissioner Mladinov announced that Washington Gas had sent a notice of planned work on gas lines around 37<sup>th</sup> and Quebec Street NW starting as early as August 5. She also reported that the DC Public Service Commission had dismissed Washington Gas Light's proposed ProjectPIPES Phase 3 and launched a new proceeding, requesting that the utility submit a new plan for accelerated replacement of leaky or aging gas pipes, which would address the comments and questions about ProjectPIPES, including concerns raised in the recent audit about costs and inefficiency, as well as questions from the DC Office of People's Counsel (OPC), the DC Council and members of the public about considering effects on climate change.

The Commissioners also mentioned that the DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) had asked the ANC for suggestions of locations of Electric Vehicle Charging Locations in the District, focusing on publicly accessible sites that are not restricted to specific tenants, employers, or parking customers. The Chair had suggested a location in front of the MPD Second District police station on Idaho Avenue. Residents were invited to be in touch with the ANC to suggest other potential sites.

The Commissioners also provided updates on the WMATA "Better Bus" WMATA's proposal to revise the bus network and rename and reconfigure all local bus routes for 2025, per plans issued in May. See: <https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/upload/EN-Route-Profiles-and-Crosswalk-05-06-24.pdf> The WMATA Board had opened a public comment period from May 13-July 15. At the ANC 3A June public meeting, the Commissioners had discussed the proposal but agreed to continue to work on comments to submit to WMATA by July 15, the day before the July public meeting, and had voted to designate Commissioner Mladinov to represent the Commission on the matter.

Commissioner Mladinov reported on several developments related to the Better Bus project. After the June ANC 3A meeting, Councilmember Frumin had organized a Ward 3 virtual meeting with WMATA on July 9 for members of the public and ANC Commissioners to ask questions and offer feedback. In the meeting, Peter Cafiero, WMATA VP for Operations and Scheduling, along with other WMATA staff working on the Better Bus initiative, had listened to the comments and made several points important to the ANC 3A area. They acknowledged that they should have included plans for bus service throughout the day on Cathedral Avenue (currently served by the N2 route), where the plan released in May had only called for weekday peak hour service and only on part of Cathedral Avenue. WMATA staff also said they had been considering options for continuing to serve bus stops on residential streets in interior Glover

Park that had not been included in the Better Bus 2025 proposal. CM Frumin asked WMATA to work with the ANCs including ANC 3A to find improved solutions in those areas.

On behalf of ANC 3A, Commissioner Mladinov had submitted a statement on July 15 identifying problems that WMATA's proposed changes in bus routes and operates would cause for people living, working, visiting, or studying in the ANC area; offering recommended improvements to the Better Bus map to better serve local needs; and also attaching the comments received from constituents. She also had been working with CM Frumin's staff to make sure they had the same information and were working in synch. CM Frumin and his staff had gathered all public comments from constituents in Ward 3 and prepared a comprehensive statement that was filed with WMATA by the July 15 deadline, sharing concerns and recommendations for improvements in the Better Bus 2025 proposals for the ward as a whole. As the lead staff person for CM Frumin on the issue, Hana Fouladi had participated in the ANC 3A discussion of the WMATA Better Bus proposal at its June meeting and was also participating in the ANC 3A July meeting.

At the June ANC 3A public meeting, Commissioner Havemann (3A02) had asked if it would be possible to distribute fuller information about the Better Bus proposal and get feedback from constituents, particularly seniors and others living and working in the large apartments and condominiums on Wisconsin Avenue in her Single Member District, who have access to buses on Wisconsin (31, 33), Massachusetts Avenue (N2/N4/N6) and Woodley Road (96). In response, Commissioner Mladinov had prepared an information sheet and survey for that purpose, which Commissioner Havemann had distributed to constituents, including apartment and condo buildings in ANC3A02. Commissioner Mladinov had also shared similar information sheets and surveys with others in the area who would be affected by those and other proposed changes in Metrobus routes and services. The survey responses to ANC 3A's survey were included in the packet of comments submitted to WMATA for the July 15 deadline, along with the comments that ANC 3A residents had shared via the community engagement software and online survey organized by ANC 3D about proposed changes in bus services on the D2/N2 and other routes affecting the southern part of Ward 3.

Following up on his comments at the June ANC 3A public meeting, constituent David White reported that he had secured several dozen signatures on a petition he had circulated and sent to WMATA as part of the Better Bus 2025 process. The petition expressed opposition to WMATA's proposal to operate a new Metrobus route C85 that would run on 39<sup>th</sup> Street NW between Cathedral Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue. The signatures included residents in all the adjoining apartment buildings on that part of 39<sup>th</sup> Street as well as representatives of Annunciation School, which is also located on 39<sup>th</sup> Street south of Massachusetts Avenue, serving students from pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Residents as well as the school had expressed major concerns about the safety risks for the students at Annunciation, their families, and others using those blocks if the proposed bus route were operated on that narrow local residential street, with multiple driveways including the driveway to Annunciation School.

### **Community Announcements**

Hope Cousin introduced herself as the new Ward 3 Manager for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), after a restructuring of the office. She described her role as being "eyes and ears" for the executive in the community, and asked meeting participants to share information about meetings or events in the community that they would like her to join. She also invited residents to share photos of problem areas, such as abandoned property in the area.

Joe Dweck of CM Frumin's office reported that the previous day CM Frumin had sent comments to WMATA on its Better Bus proposal, on which he and fellow staff member Hana Fouladi had been working with ANCs including ANC 3A Commissioners.

He invited residents to sign up for CM Frumin's newsletter at <https://mattfruminward3.com/> to get more information on that and other issues. He also announced:

- The District's FY2025 budget had been the most challenging in decades, including funding for WMATA. He pointed to several areas where the Council had found ways to raise revenues through fees or other means in order to provide more support for child care and school modernization, avert cuts to early childhood education, and make modest increases for senior villages and Main Street programs.
- CM Frumin is looking for ways to address key challenges that are continuing, including school truancy, and hopes to come back with some proposed fixes in the fall.
- The Wilson Aquatic Center had re-opened after DPR made many upgrades including to the HVAC, humidity system, locker rooms, lighting and flooring. He said the pool had suffered from corner-cutting in the original construction, but pre-emptive maintenance would be done in the future.

### **Open Forum**

Maria Perisic, resident in ANC 3A03, asked for help with a problem with her DC Water bill. Since November 2023, the bill had shown much higher daily use than usual, which did not match the readings visible on the water meter at the house. She had not had any success getting assistance with the problem from DC Water, and had not gotten a solution from OPC. She had recently emailed ANC 3A03 but found that Commissioner seat was vacant. Chair Bradley-Lewis asked Ms. Perisic to write to him with the details and he would forward them to CM Frumin's Constituent Services staff, the District's Attorney General, or anyone else who could help.

David White asked about the coming ANC elections, which seats were vacant, and which Single Member Districts in ANC 3A would have Commissioners running again. Commissioner Bradley-Lewis said he was planning to run. Commissioner Mladinov said she was picking up nominating petitions the next day. Commissioner Havemann had been looking for someone else to run in ANC 3A02, and as noted, ANC 3A03 has a vacancy. Commissioner Del Moral said he didn't know if he would be eligible to run because he is planning to move out of the District in coming months.

Another constituent reported that the small trees planted at Hearst Park had not been getting watered in the dry weather. The Chair reported that there is an active group, Friends of Hearst Park, that pays attention to issues at the park. DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) had been working on getting gaiters (green bags to hold water) for the trees. DDOT also has a website tracks watering of public trees at <https://treewatering.ddot.dc.gov/treewatering>. It includes information on which specific trees need water and when a tree was last watered, and provides a way to report if you have watered a particular tree.

### **Administrative Matters**

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared draft minutes of the June 18 ANC 3A public meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Del Moral read the ANC 3A June financial report.

#### **ANC 3A June Financial Report**

Opening Balance (June 1): \$17,714.41

- Income: None
- Cash Withdrawals: None
  - Expenditures: None
  - Bank Fees: None (Monthly Fee waived)

Ending Balance (June 30): \$17,714.41

Commissioner Del Moral presented the ANC 3A Quarterly Financial Report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY2024, which showed only one expenditure of \$6.09. The Chair made a motion to vote on the financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve.

The Chair announced that candidates running for ANC seats in the 2024 General Election could continue to pick up nominating petitions from the DC Board of Elections through August 7. Each candidate is required to collect petitions containing a total of at least 25 signatures of registered voters in the Single Member District and submit them to the Board of Elections by August 7 at 5 pm.

The Chair announced that the next monthly public meeting would be Tuesday, September 17, 2024, unless there is a need to hold a special public meeting before that.

The Chair made a motion to vote on adjourning the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

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These minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 3 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on September 17, 2024, at which a quorum was present. (Two of the three Commissioners constitute a quorum.)