

RESOLUTION #4A-23-1107-01

**Authorizing ANC 4A to Submit Its 2023 Annual Report
to the OANC and Council Secretary**

Adopted November 7, 2023

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4A (the Commission) takes note of the following:

- The ANCs are encouraged to submit an annual report for 2023
- The ANC is proposing to provide the attached report for its 2023 Annual Report Submission

RESOLVED, that ANC 4A submit the attached 2023 Annual Report, with leave to correct any typographical errors and update activity from November 7th ANC 4A meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR ANC 4A

ANC 4A submits this Annual Report for the Period of January 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023.

ANC 4A covers the following neighborhoods: Brightwood, Colonial Village, North Portal Estates, The Parks at Walter Reed, and Shepherd Park. ANC 4A covers approximately 15,000 residents and has seven single member districts.

The ANC 4A officers for 2023 were: Patience Singleton, Chair; Joan Hoyte, Vice Chair; Paula Edwards, Treasurer; and Kim Patterson, Secretary.

For the year 2023, the ANC 4A commissioners in numerical Single Member District (SMD) order were: SMD 4A01, Paula Edwards; SMD 4A02, Joan Hoyte; SMD 4A03, Chris Hara; SMD 4A04, Patience Singleton; SMD 4A05, Kimberly Patterson; SMD 4A06, Candace Tiana Nelson; SMD 4A07, Zack Bolton. Commissioners Hara, Nelson and Bolton filled ANC SMD vacancies after January 2023.

Consistent with the requirements for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, the ANC held nine regular scheduled public meetings. Those meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each month, with the exception of July and August. There were two special meetings held on February 13 and July 17. All meetings were held virtually on the Zoom platform. We have operated with a quorum of commissioners for most of the year despite beginning the year with two vacancies and the loss of a commissioner due to death. The ANC operates under its current bylaws that were adopted in February 2023.

The ANC 4A provided an opportunity for the community to offer comments and to raise concerns regarding matters not already on the agenda at each ANC 4A public meeting. We also provided an

opportunity at each of the meetings for the community to hear from the Mayor's staff, the Ward 4 Council member's representative, and the elected Ward 4 SBOE representative.

We heard from Councilmember Lewis George and Councilmember Robert White who both honored late Commissioner Whatley when he retired (February 7, 2023). MPD Assistant Chief Megan Kane also presented at our June 2023 meeting.

ANC 4A adopted several administrative matters during the past year:

- Elected Commission officers at the January (rescheduled to January 17) and special meeting in February (replaced late Commissioner Whatley as Treasurer and elected Secretary)
- Approved ANC Security Fund (January 2023)
- Approved 2024 FY budget and quarterly reports (October 2023)
- Approved revised Commission bylaws (February 3, 2023)
- Approved funding for Commissioner cellphones (February 13, 2023)
- Approval of Commission Debit Card policy (March 2023)
- Approved application for ANC Technical grant assistance (June 2023)
- Approved funding for Commissioner business cards (July 2023)
- Approved authorization for expenses for ANC 4A website update (July 2023)

The ANC considered numerous issues during the past year, including:

Walter Reed (The Parks development)

- Resolution to support Toll Brothers Special Exception for building L (January 2023)
- Resolution to support WR Parcel M design concept for 102 units of affordable housing (April 2023)
- Letter of support for Children's National Hospital for the change in design of the HVAC units on top of the main building (June 2023)
- Letter to oppose/protest retail liquor license for Whole Foods (January 2023)
- Resolution to support Howard University design concept for Building 6-7 for ambulatory care center and medical offices (January 2023)
- Approval of Master Template for ABCA Settlement agreements at Walter Reed (June 2023) and Jinja Restaurant.
- Letter of support for LiveWell Animal Clinic (September 2023)
- Letter of support for District Dogs (doggie daycare) (October 2023)
- Approval of Commissioner Hara to replace Commissioner Whatley as ANC 4A representative on WR LRA CAC (September 2023)
- Letter of Support for the removal of the 15' Building Restriction Line on the south side of Fern Street NW, abutting The Parks at Walter Reed, and subsequent establishment of a 4.5' Building Restriction Line (October 2023)

Business Applications

- Letter of support for Dispatch Health (September 2023)
- Approval of Serengiti Lounge Settlement (May 2023)

Homeowner Special Exceptions/Variances

- Approval of Variance for 1352 Locus Road (addition) (September 2023)
- Opposition to Special Exception application for 1840 Primrose (lot division) (October 2023)

Grants

- Approval of revisions to ANC grant application (June 2023)
- Approval of three grant applications:
 - Zenith Community Arts Foundation (\$3000) (June 2023)
 - National Links Trust (\$3000) (June 2023)
 - Shepherd PTO (\$3000) (May 2023)

Affordable Housing

- Letter in support of affordable housing development at 6632/6640 Georgia Avenue (July 2023)
- Approval of request for ANC 4A Affordable and Safe Housing subcommittee (April 2023)

Other Issues:

- Letter requesting support for Ward 4 Library Assessment (February 13, 2023)
- Letter of support for National Links Trust for DC Revenue bond program (July 2023)
- Letter to National Park Service and DDOT requesting assessment traffic resulting from of Beach Drive closure (October 2023)
- Requested presentation and reopening of teen side of Ft. Stevens Recreation Center

Individual Commissioner Reports: Attached

Adopted by a vote of 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstention at the November 7, 2023 meeting at which a quorum of six of seven commissioners were present.

**2023 Annual Report for the period January 2, 2023, through November 30, 2023
ANC 4A01, Commissioner Paula Y. Edwards, Treasurer, ANC 4A**

Chair Singleton has delineated the majority of accomplishments in the past ten months 29 days, and 11 hours of our tenure. During that period I have dragged a dead deer out of a driveway so DPW could collect it, succeeded in getting a car abandoned for 4 years towed, helped reestablished ANC finances in good standing with the OANC, testified at multiple city hearings, participated in BZA cases, met with neighbors, participated in ABCA settlement agreements and protests, interacted with city officials on everything from trees to trash, set up mobile telephones and ordered business cards, participated in MPD focus groups and sector meetings, participated in a variety of community meetings.

I could not have accomplished any of this without the support and guidance of my fellow commissioners who are an amazing group of accomplished, intelligent, thoughtful professionals. Our Chair, Commissioner Singleton, has been a steady, patient, and wise presence. She has guided us through the trauma of the death of our longest serving Commissioner, Stephen Whatley, one month into the term, leaving her with a group of five of seven commissioners who were new to the job. She and the other incumbent commissioner, Commissioner Nelson, have encouraged a spirit of collegiality and cooperation that I have seen missing from other ANCs. I am also grateful for the collaboration of my neighboring ANC commissioner, Commissioner Hoyte, for her expertise and willingness to work with me on a variety of issues that affect both our SMDs. All of the commissioners in our group bring different skills to the table and I count myself lucky to be affiliated with them.

I am also very grateful to the Office of the ANC (OANC). Under the leadership of Director Boese, they have made available an amazing array of tools, training, and resources to allow us to do our jobs. Without the patient expertise of Ms. Dawn Dickerson, I could not have gotten the financial statements filed for the ANC. Ms. Gail Fast and the other members of OANC has been invaluable in helping me to find my way through the labyrinth of DC government and the requirements of this job.

I want to acknowledge all the DC Government employees who have been unfailingly helpful and tolerant of my mistakes and lack of knowledge. There are too many to name from the Mayor's office, to ABCA, DPW, MPD, OP, DDOT, DOH, DCOAG, USOAG, and others. Our Ward 4 Councilmember and her staff have always been a great help. They all do so much more than the minimum required and have restored my faith that our city government is staffed by professional experts who want nothing more than to do their jobs and to make DC a wonderful place to live.

Finally, I want to thank all the neighbors who have informed me, corrected me, assisted me, overwhelmed me, and disagreed with me.. I believe I have the best SMD in the city and I am grateful for the intelligence, diligence, and forbearance of my constituents as they help me address the various issues that confront us.

This time has been one of intense learning, frustration, and revelation for me. I've seen what we can accomplish as an effective team, and I hope that we can continue to work together through the end of my term.

SMD 4A03 2023 Update

Commissioner Hara

Commissioner Christian Hara was sworn in by Councilmember Janeese Lewis George on April 25, 2023, replacing long serving and much-loved Commissioner Stephen Whatley after his passing in February 2023.

Updates from the Parks:

- Whole Foods opened on June 28.
- Jinya Ramen, a full-service, sit-down restaurant opened on October 13.
- Starbucks is coming to the retail ground floor of the Common Clover, the co-living building across from the Whole Foods.
- 12th Street is now open!

Commissioner Hara worked with the following organizations to provide Letters of Support:

- Children’s National Hospital for the change in design of the HVAC units on top of the main building.
- 6634 and 6640 Georgia Avenue, NW, Z.C. Case No 22-37 (Walter Reed Gateway, LLC & Thomas Calomiris – Map Amendment @ Sq. 2947, Lots 808 & 815) for...
- Permit Application for Livewell Animal Hospital at the Parks at Walter Reed; Case #21013. The Hospital will be run by Southern Veterinary Partners.
- Letter of Support for the removal of the 15’ Building Restriction Line on the south side of Fern Street NW, abutting The Parks at Walter Reed, and subsequent establishment of a 4.5’ Building Restriction Line.

4A05 Commissioner Activity and Accomplishment Report

January 2023 – November 2023

Submitted by Commissioner Kim Patterson

11-5-23

kimpatterson.org

- January
 1. Jan 3: Represented 4A05 at the scene of a drive-by homicide and multiple shootings in my SMD on the 6200 block of Georgia Ave NW. Spoke with MPD Police Chief, Councilmember Lewis George, Ward 4 MOCR, and the office of ONES. Represented the concerns of my constituents through televised interviews on local TV news stations including News 4, Fox 5, DC News Now, and WTOP.
 2. Jan 11: Represented 4A05 at the scene of a shooting of a 6-year-old and multiple shootings on a Metro Bus in my SMD on 14th and Peabody Streets in my SMD and multiple shootings in my SMD. Spoke with MPD Police Chief, Councilmember Lewis

George, Ward 4 MOCR, and the office of ONES. Represented the concerns of my constituents through televised interviews on local TV news stations including News 4, Fox 5, and DC News Now.

3. Jan 10: Participated in Brightwood Community Association meeting with CM Lewis George.
 4. Jan 12: Organized and participated in DOH Walk of inspection and treatment of rat burrows in SMD.
 5. Jan 21: Attended Mayor Bower's Public Safety ANC Meeting
 6. Jan: 27 Attend DDOT's ANC Information Day.
 7. Jan 30: Attended an ANC call with DC Council Chairman, Phil Mendelson.
 8. Sent 5 ANC 4A05 emails to constituents.
- February
 1. Feb 4: Met with constituents on the 1300 blocks of Rittenhouse Street and Fort Steven's Drive about rodents and illegal dumping. Organized and participated in DOH treatment of rat burrows and had DPW remove illegally dumped items.
 2. Feb 7: Participated in 4A Public Meeting.
 3. Feb 11: Organized and held a neighborhood clean-up of Fort Steven's with 4A Commissioners, Brightwood Community Association, and The National Park Service.
 4. Feb 21: Organized and participated in Brightwood Community Association meeting.
 5. Feb 21: Met with direct neighbors of Serengeti Lounge in a constituent's home to learn their concerns about the Serengeti renewal ABRA application
 6. Feb 27: Met with owners of Serengeti Lounge about ABRA renewal application and toured the lounge.
 7. Sent 4 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
 - March
 1. March 7: Participated in 4A Public Meeting
 2. March 9: Met with DOH and Rittenhouse/ Fort Stevens Drive constituents to treat rat burrows.
 3. March 10: Contacted and worked with the DPW to remove gang graffiti in SMD.
 4. March 9: Attended MPD Sector Call/Meeting
 5. March 13: Obtained approval from DC Water to include the 1300 block of Sheridan Street in the Free Lead Service Line Removal Program for 2023 removal.
 6. ABRA Role Call Meeting – Serengeti Lounge
 7. March 13: Participated in Walter Reed Development 4A call.
 8. March 14: Organized and participated in Brightwood Community Association meeting.
 9. March 16: Organized and participated in DOB Brightwood walk.
 10. March 19: Presented at Somerset Place Block meeting.
 11. March 21: Presented at ABRA Serengeti Mediation Hearing

12. March 23: Attended and spoke at a community meeting with AG Schwalb about crime and slumlords.
 13. March 24: Attended ANC 4's meet and greet dinner at Moreland's.
 14. Sent 5 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
- April
 1. April 3: Requested and organized DGS to remove trash and cut back trees on the 1400 block of Fort Stevens Drive.
 2. April 4: Participated in 4A Public Meeting.
 3. April 11: Organized and participated in Brightwood Community Association meeting.
 4. April 12: Presented on ABRA Status Hearing on Serengeti Lounge.
 5. April 13: Attended DDOT ANC Call.
 6. Sent 4 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
 - May
 1. May 2: Participated in 4A Public Meeting.
 2. May 7: Organized and participated in Brightwood Community Association Clean-Up at 14th & Luzon – Fort Stevens Playground.
 3. May 9: Organized and participated in Brightwood Community Association meeting.
 4. May 20: Attended DDOT ANC Fair
 5. May 22: Attended ABRA ANC Cannabis Call
 6. May 23: Attended EV Charging Call
 7. May 26: Finalized ABRA Settlement Agreement with Serengeti Lounge
 8. May 27: Had a *NO Dumping* sign placed in Rittenhouse alley
 9. Sent 5 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
 - June
 1. June 6: Participated in 4A Public Meeting.
 2. June 13: Organized and participated in Brightwood Community Association meeting.
 3. June 28: Attended and Participated in Whole Foods Opening at Walter Reed.
 4. Sent 4 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
 - July
 1. July 15: Attended and Participated in the 159th Celebration of Fort Stevens.
 2. July 24: Met with Antoine Thompson about EV Charging in Brightwood.
 3. July 26: Attended EV Charging Event
 4. Sent 4 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
 - August
 1. Aug 5: Organized and participated in ANC Clean-up day along 14th Street in SMD.
 2. Aug 8: Organized and participated in DOH Walk of inspection and treatment of rat burrows in SMD.
 3. Aug 10: Sent email to DPR, DGS, DPW, and CM Lewis Goerge's office about the deteriorating conditions at Fort Stevens Recreation Center including illegally parked

cars, trash, rodents and broken swings, water park, etc. All of the issues I raised were remedied.

4. Aug 22: Organized and participated in DOH Walk of inspection and treatment of rat burrows in SMD.
 5. Aug 16: Attend and participate in Ward 4 Cares Day – walked a dangerous intersection at Piney Branch and Sheridan with CM Lewis-George and DDOT and request safety improvements.
 6. Sent 4 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
- September
 1. Sept 13: Participated in 4D MDP Public Safety Walk with Commander Lavenhouse and Officer Hamrick and requested that the open-air drug market located on Georgia and Sheridan be disbanded.
 2. Sept 16: Attended and participated in Elizabeth Thomas Day at For Stevens
 3. Sept 18: Attended and participated in CAC meeting at MPD 4D with Commander Lavenhouse and Phil Mendelson.
 4. Worked with DDOT to have speedbumps installed on the 1400 block of Sheridan Street.
 5. Sept 30: Worked with CM Lewis George's office to obtain 4 recycle trashcans for the SMD block party and MPD to attend the block party.
 6. Sept 30: Worked with MPD and constituents to arrest a person wanted for crimes.
 7. Sent 5 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
 - October
 1. Oct 1: Achieved – disbandment of open-air drug market on Georgia Ave and Sheridan.
 2. Oct 3: Participated in 4A Public Meeting.
 3. Oct 5: Attended and participated in MPD Public Safety Walk with Officer Hamrick.
 4. Oct 10: Organized and participated in Brightwood Community Association meeting.
 5. Oct 18: Attended and participated in Housing Conditions meeting with CM Lewis George, OAG, and ANC 4A06.
 6. Oct 19: Testified at DC Council Solid Waste Hearing.
 7. Oct 23: Attended Mayor Bowser's press conference at 4D announcing *Act Now* crime bill.
 8. Oct 31: Gave out candy to neighborhood children with Officer Hamrick on Halloween.
 9. Sent 3 ANC 4A05 emails to my constituents.
 - November
 1. Nov 4: Attended National Links Trust Community Day

SMD 4A07 - ANC 4A Annual Updates

Commissioner Zack Bolton

Rock Creek Golf Course:

As National Links Trust (NLT) has started to realize the changes that are planned in order to improve the Rock Creek Golf Course Commissioner Bolton has maintained close communication between the organization and constituents and advocated for the inclusion of programs and features for low-income and non-traditional golfers as well as non-golfers such as hikers and nature-lovers.

As the Environmental Assessment (EA) was published and the community voiced strong concerns about the plan to remove large numbers of trees from the course, Commissioner Bolton worked quickly with the offices of the Mayor and Elenor Holmes Norton to request an extension to the public comment period, which was granted. Commissioner Bolton continues to maintain strong communication between NLT and the community which helps provide more insight into the public comment period mechanics as well as continue to foster a strong respectable relationship with the employees of NLT.

Commissioner Bolton discussed grant opportunities available for NLT through ANC 4A and worked with our Treasure, Commissioner Paula Edwards, to inevitably provide grant funding to NLT for a goat herd which was intended to combat invasive vegetation at the course. Through no fault of ANC 4A or NLT, the goat herd was determined to be unviable—NLT and ANC 4A are working to reconfigure this grant.

Commissioner Bolton worked with NLT to host two public community golf days at the Rock Creek Golf Course. Commissioner Bolton worked to inform the community of these events through email, flyer distribution and word of mouth. Attendance at both events were successful but higher attendance is certainly desired in the future.

Litter Clean-ups:

Commissioner Bolton participated in two litter clean-ups. One which was spearheaded by Commissioner Kim Patterson and the other which was co-sponsored by Commissioner Patterson and myself. Both clean-ups resulted in a dramatic improvement in the Fort Stevens National Park property and the streets of Brightwood SMD's 4A05 and 4A07.

Vegetation overgrowth on Military Road:

The northernmost sidewalk on Military Road between 16th St. and 14th St. had become overgrown with vegetation to a point where it was hazardous for pedestrians to transit and impossible for residents with mobility devices or strollers to access. Commissioner Bolton worked with DPW and DDOT to ensure that this area was cleared and that the community was aware of the work.

Invasive Vegetation:

Concerned community members alerted Commissioner Bolton to an unmanaged invasive stand of kudzu (*Pueraria spp.*) along Ft. Stevens Dr. that is threatening the health of a grove of mature trees. This area is also generally overgrown with native vegetation which provides cover for criminal and antisocial behavior as well as a high incidence of litter. Unfortunately, this community concern is still pending action from DC DDOT and DPW.

Pedestrian and Motor Vehicle Safety:

As motor vehicle traffic has increased on the side-streets of Brightwood, car-pedestrian incidents have also increased. Two areas of concern within 4A07 are the intersections of Rock Creek Ford Rd. and Ft. Stevens Dr. and the intersection of Van Buren St. and 16th St.

The intersection at Rock Creek Ford and Ft. Stevens sits between two high-angle streets and—as a result of poor traffic calming, all-way stop sign placement, overgrown vegetation (see previous section re: invasive vegetation on Ft. Stevens Dr.)—has created a dangerous interface between vehicles and pedestrians. This block is home to the Rittenhouse Apartments, a 208 unit family building and the north campus of the Milton Gottesman Jewish Day School. Car on car accidents are common and near-miss interactions between cars and pedestrians are frighteningly frequent. Someone will be injured here without further action from DDOT.

The intersection at 16th St and Van Buren is also a complicated intersection on a blind hill with confusing traffic lights and traffic patterns. Constituents in this area are concerned for pedestrian and motorist safety.

With help from the Ward 4 Mayor's office MOCRS these two areas are scheduled for upcoming traffic studies.

Unsafe Construction:

An apartment building on the corner of 14th St. and Van Buren Pl. has been the subject of several unsafe conditions which warranted action from DC DOB. 1400 Whittier Pl. was acquired by a well-known developer and subsequently gutted for remodeling. The building sat in an unsecured state until Commissioner Bolton was alerted by concerned neighbors about area children entering the building. After confirming this, Commissioner Bolton worked with DOB to inspect the property which resulted in DC DOB abating the property to a safe condition and fining the developer.

This property was just recently the subject of community concern once again when Commissioner Bolton was alerted to unsafe heavy machinery handling over pedestrian sidewalks as well as erosion concerns. DC DOB once again inspected the property and, though was unable to confirm the concerns, notified the construction crew of the issues and the necessary corrections.

Tenant Association Activity:

Commissioner Bolton had the honor of being a witness to the election of new board members for the Rittenhouse Tenant Association. This association is one of the oldest tenant associations in DC and has an instrumental role in being the voice of one of Brightwood's largest apartment buildings. Commissioner Bolton regularly attends these meetings to update residents on 4A matters.

Residential Parking Petition:

One of Brightwood's last streets lacking Residential Parking Permit (RPP) parking was recently approved for RPP. Commissioner Bolton worked with residents on the westernmost block of Tuckerman St. to successfully petition RPP status.

Embassy Concerns:

Brightwood is home to two embassy properties. Burkina Faso and Botswana both have properties on 16th Street which are sadly in treacherous condition. Both properties are vectors for wildlife and safe havens for criminal and antisocial behavior. Having worked with Councilmember Janeese Lewis George's office, the office of the Mayor and the State

Department these two properties are finally front-and-center to those who can help put an end to these terrible conditions. This is still an ongoing issue.