



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
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COMMISSIONERS

3/4G-01 - Lisa R. Gore, Chair 3/4G-02 - Bruce Sherman, Vice Chair 3/4G-03 - Carol Grunewald
3/4G-04 - Laura Phinizy 3/4G-05 - Karrenthya Simmons, Treasurer
3/4G-06 - Peter Gosselin 3/4G-07 - Elizabeth Nagy, Secretary

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3/4G Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025, 6:30 PM – Virtual via Zoom

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT • Commissioner Lisa Gore (ANC 3/4G-01, Chair) • Commissioner Bruce Sherman (ANC 3/4G-02, Vice Chair) • Commissioner Carol Grunewald (ANC 3/4G-03) • Commissioner Laura Phinizy (ANC 3/4G-04) • Commissioner Karrenthya Simmons (ANC 3/4G-05, Treasurer) - arrived during meeting • Commissioner Peter Gosselin (ANC 3/4G-06) • Commissioner Elizabeth Nagy (ANC 3/4G-07, Secretary)

Number of participants online: Approximately 50 participants, including Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gore called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

I. OPENING BUSINESS

A. MEETING PROCEDURES

Chair Gore outlined virtual meeting procedures, instructing participants to use the raise hand function for recognition and reminding all speakers of the three-minute time limit.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The agenda was amended as follows: Commissioner Grunewald requested two agenda items scheduled for 9:15 PM be moved to earlier times (7:00 PM and 7:15 PM) to accommodate constituents; items were moved to the next meeting, including the PEPCO item and the 5301 Connecticut Avenue issue; the agenda was reordered to prioritize resolutions and community presentations. The motion to approve the agenda as amended was adopted 5-0-1 (Commissioner Nagy abstaining. Commissioner Simmons was absent.)

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Nagy moved that the minutes of July 28, 2025, be adopted with leave to make technical corrections. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0-0). Commissioner Simmons was absent.

II. MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

A. RESIDENT FORUM

The Commission heard from the following community member: Ron Kahn - Raised concerns about the bylaw amendment process, requesting Office of the ANC participation for possible approval and review and asking whether updates would be completed before committee approvals.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. COUNCILMEMBER REPORT

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George provided comprehensive updates on:

Fiscal Year 2026 Budget: Reported on challenging budget year due to \$1.1 billion congressional cut and decreasing revenue from federal layoffs. She ultimately voted against the budget due to gaps in funding for Alliance Health, permanent supportive housing vouchers, child tax credit, and cure sites. Successfully secured \$2 million for Lafayette Elementary elevator replacement, restored paid family leave benefits, fully funded senior villages services, and added \$9.5 million for childcare subsidies.

Federal Occupation Response: Thanked the Commission for information collection efforts. Reported devastating impacts including ICE checkpoint on Georgia Avenue and detentions throughout Ward 4. Mentioned the day's U.S. Supreme Court decision enabling racial profiling and ongoing organizational efforts through Free DC Project and other groups.

RFK Stadium Development: Reported D.C. Council passage of initial deal with secured project labor agreements, 51% district worker participation, grocery subsidy for Wards 7-8, and LEED platinum certification requirements.

Bus Network Issues: Acknowledged problems with Better Bus Network implementation affecting students getting to and from school, with WMATA bringing in supervisors for observation and promising changes.

Lafayette School Updates: Reported on recent tour showing interior ADA ramp completion, with exterior ramp due by December 30th, new elevator funded, and track completion targeted for November 1st.

2. PUBLIC SPACE CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Commissioner Grunewald presented a request from Gary and Connie Fabiano for a curb cut and new driveway at 5452 27th Street NW. The project involves a permeable driveway leading to a converted garage. All neighbors on the block were consulted with no objections received. Every other house on the block has front yard driveways except one with no driveway.

Commissioner Grunewald moved that ANC 34G approve the Fabiano application for a curb cut and new driveway in the front yard of 5452 27th Street NW. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

3. VACANT PROPERTY RESOLUTION

Commissioner Grunewald presented the case of 5410 30th Street NW, a vacant property that has deteriorated over four years through multiple ownership changes. The property has been sold three times, with each owner abandoning it. The site poses safety hazards including missing stairs from first floor to basement, loose construction materials, scalable fencing, and mosquito breeding areas. Jason Williamson from the Department of Buildings confirmed the property's blighted status and referral to the Board for the Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings (BCIB).

Commissioner Grunewald moved that the Commission approve a resolution requesting the DC BCIB to condemn property located at 5410 30th Street NW due to long-standing abandonment, extreme neglect, and dangerous conditions on the site. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

4. GRANT APPLICATION

Commissioner Simmons presented a grant application from the Chevy Chase Community Association requesting \$1,425.00 to fund an ice cream truck providing 600 pieces for Chevy Chase Day.

Commissioner Simmons moved to approve the grant request of \$1,425.00. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

5. FEDERAL TAKEOVER RESOLUTION

Commissioner Gore presented a resolution from the ANC Home Rule Caucus condemning federal overreach in District of Columbia policing and demanding immediate return of local control. The resolution addresses Section 740 of the Home Rule Act, deployment of approximately 2,200 National Guard troops and 500 federal law enforcement agents, and congressional withholding of \$1 billion in locally raised funds.

The resolution includes six resolved clauses urging Congress to reject extensions of federal control, restore local funds, support legal challenges, and demand transparency from federal agencies. A specific provision requires law enforcement officers to be unmasked, wear identifying uniforms, and provide name identification.

Commissioner Gore moved to adopt the resolution as read. The motion was seconded with an amendment accepted to add "public safety" before "education" in the second resolved clause. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

6. FEDERAL RESPONSE TASK FORCE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Sherman presented a detailed proposal to establish a task force focused on federal immigration enforcement response. He reported on community surveys reaching nearly 500 people, zoom meetings with over 100 participants, and two immigration arrests in his SMD on August 20th and 22nd. He cited the need for increased focus given ICE staging operations in Rock Creek Park and anticipated stepped-up activity with new fiscal year funding.

The proposed task force would be chaired by a commissioner with community residents, focus on educating residents about rights and responsibilities, aid immigrant workers, and coordinate with support organizations. Extensive discussion ensued regarding task force structure, commission coordination, scope of work, and relationship to the existing Race and Social Equity Committee.

After considerable debate about co-chairs, committee coordination, timing, and scope, Commissioner Sherman agreed to defer the proposal to an administrative meeting for further discussion.

Action: Discussion tabled to be taken up at the upcoming administrative meeting.

7. WMATA BUS ISSUES

Commissioners discussed ongoing concerns with bus route changes under the Better Bus Network, particularly impacts on student transportation. Commissioner Gore noted the issue overlaps with federal enforcement concerns as students face increased risk at metro and bus stops.

Cal Simone from Friends of Bus Transit provided updates on: Schedule additions made three days after school started, including two earlier bus times for routes back to Chevy Chase from Jackson Reed and Deal; New student lanes implemented at 12 metro stations, with Tenleytown being the only one on this side of the Rock Creek Park; Ongoing compilation of feedback through wiki page and planned feedback forms.

Commissioners Sherman, Phinzy, and Grunewald reported on their coordination efforts, with Commissioner Sherman noting improved responsiveness from WMATA officials Anne Chisholm and Regina Sullivan when contacted directly about specific problems.

8. CAPITOL CITY LITTLE LEAGUE LIGHTS EXTENSION

Commissioner Gosselin requested support for a one-time extension of field lights at Chevy Chase playground from 9:30 PM to 10:00 PM for the fall 2025 season (September 11 - November 7, 2025). The request addresses field shortage issues, though not specifically related to Lafayette Elementary construction as initially thought, since different age divisions use different fields.

Commissioner Gosselin conducted door-to-door canvassing of 21 households in the affected area, with results showing 9 households in favor, 3 opposed, and several houses for sale. Residents opposing the extension expressed concern about extended lighting hours becoming a permanent change.

Mark Welborn, Capitol City Little League Fields Commissioner, explained that the extra 30 minutes would potentially allow two games per night, alleviating field constraints given the tight availability of baseball fields citywide.

Commissioner Gosselin moved to support Capitol City Little League's request for a one-time and time-limited extension of field lights at Chevy Chase playground for fall 2025 season. The motion was seconded and adopted 6-0-1 (Commissioner Phinizy abstaining).

III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. RASE COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

Commissioner Simmons presented six nominees for the Race and Social Equity Committee (RASE): Katherine Curley, Tai Wingfield, Brian Heilman, Lester Burke, Colleen Bragiel-Morsli, and Shannon Wulf Tregar. Discussion centered on the relationship between committee membership and proposed bylaw changes regarding committee size limits, with some commissioners expressing concerns about limiting committee participation and other expressing support for limits on the number of committee members and the terms they serve.

Action: Discussion tabled to administrative meeting to coordinate with bylaw amendments discussion.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE MEETING SCHEDULING

Commissioners agreed to schedule an administrative meeting for the following week to discuss: Bylaw amendments regarding committee membership limits; Race committee nominations; Fiscal Year 2026 budget proposal; FOIA request review and process improvements; Return to 7:00 PM start time for future meetings.

C. CIVIC CORE UPDATE

Commissioner Gore reported that the RFP process remains ongoing with no developer selection yet made, contrary to community rumors about selection or budget issues affecting the process. Deputy City Administrator Giles Stucker confirmed they are still moving forward, and the ANC would be the first to know of any selection.

The ANC complied with a FOIA request for survey documents from May 22 - July 7, 2025, with materials reviewed by the OANC. Commissioner Gore indicated her view that process discussions are needed based on the FOIA review.

D. TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Simmons presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2026 budget, built upon the FY 2025 approved budget with adjustments including \$500 for office costs, \$15,000 for communications, \$10,000 each for office supplies/equipment/printing and grants, and various smaller line items totaling the approved allocation.

Discussion was deferred to the upcoming administrative meeting to allow commissioners time to review details, particularly regarding recurring costs for Go Vocal and other technology services.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 10:40 PM.

Approved on October 6, 2025

Attested by: 
box SIGN 187YZ365-1J2LR33R
Lisa R. Gore, Chair


box SIGN 4ZRVL67X-1J2LR33R
Elizabeth A. Nagy, Secretary

Oct 7, 2025
Date

Oct 7, 2025
Date