

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A**



**ANC 3A Public Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 2025**

The meeting was held in hybrid format, by Zoom and in person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom, located at 3811 Porter Street NW.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

**Quorum Call:** All five Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Gracemary Allen (3A02), Isaac Bowers (3A03), Claire McCafferty (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05). The Secretary confirmed that a quorum was participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

**Verification of Notice:** The Secretary confirmed that notice of the meeting and a copy of the proposed agenda had been shared 7 days in advance of the meeting as required, using the two methods previously approved by the Commission: the ANC 3A website and email including ANC 3A email list, local listservs and Nextdoor Neighbors e-network, which met the notice requirement.

**Approval of Agenda:** The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda, with the note that the DC Preservation League about its grant application was being postponed. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

**Official Votes:**

*ANC 3A July Meeting Minutes.* The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes, with any technical corrections needed.

*Amendment to ANC 3A Grant Guidelines.* The Chair made a motion to vote on proposed revisions to the grant guidelines that had been adopted in July, in order to require grant applications to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> (or the next business day) of the month prior to the ANC meeting at which the grant request is scheduled to be presented, rather than one week in advance. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the amendment to the guidelines.

*Vote to Approve Expenditure of \$741.98 for Purchase of Nexigo 360° Meeting Camera.* The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

**Next Meeting**

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, in hybrid format, in person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom and virtually by Zoom.

**Adjournment**

The Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

## **FULL SUMMARY**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

All five Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Gracemary Allen (3A02), Isaac Bowers (3A03), Claire McCafferty (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05). The Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

The Secretary confirmed that notice of the meeting and a copy of the proposed agenda had been shared with the public 7 days in advance of the meeting as required, using the two methods previously approved by the Commission: the ANC 3A website and email including ANC 3A email list, local listservs and Nextdoor Neighbors e-network. That met the notice requirement.

The Chair one change from the proposed agenda that had been circulated 7 days in advance of the meeting: the DC Preservation League had postponed the presentation about its grant application for a study of the impact study of historic preservation in the historic districts in Washington, DC, including the Cleveland Park Historic District. The application had been sent to all 7 ANCs that include some or all of the area of a historic district in the area they serve. The DC Preservation League had suggested rescheduling the presentation to the ANC 3A December meeting.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda, the motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

### **MPD Community Report**

Captain Darren Haskis of the Second District MPD presented the crime report for the past 30 days in ANC 3A. He reported that there had been one Assault with a Dangerous Weapon (on Wisconsin Avenue near Van Ness Street on August 31). There had also been 27 property crimes reported in the ANC, including 1 burglary on Wisconsin Avenue that had ended with an arrest and would be the subject of a hearing in the coming weeks, as well as 1 stolen vehicle, 4 thefts from auto, and 21 general thefts, mostly retail thefts in the Wegman's area and the CVS on Newark Street. He said that MPD was taking steps to reduce thefts in those areas. He also mentioned a shooting in PSA 205 earlier that day on Sherier Place in the Palisades. As a result of a 911 call for service, MPD officers encountered an individual who was coming at them with a knife in an outdoor location close to the recreation center. One officer attempted to use a taser and the other officer used a firearm, leading to the death of the individual. The incident was being investigated by MPD Internal Affairs. Captain Haskis noted this was a very isolated incident, and he did not believe it represented a pattern of any kind.

Captain Haskis also reported on reported crime in the ANC 3A area for July 15 to August 15, when the ANC did not have a public meeting. There were no violent crimes reported, 2 stolen vehicles, 5 thefts from auto, and 19 general thefts which was fewer than in the previous year.

Commissioner Allen noted that the 30-day "federal emergency" which began on August 12 had come to an end, and asked about MPD's involvement with federal agents, including in the area around local restaurants where ICE agents had been reported. Captain Haskis said that ICE had joined MPD in at least one traffic stop but that was the only instance he knew of Second District officers working with ICE. Commissioner Bowers asked if there had been any involvement with the National Guard and if their presence had any effect on Second District work. Captain Haskis said he had seen National Guard in the area, and one local road closure had been manned by National Guard so that had probably saved MPD some staff time. had been some utility.

Commissioner McCafferty asked if the presence of National Guard could have affected the crime statistics. Captain Haskis said he did not believe that federal troops had been involved in actions related to specific local crimes so their presence did not appear to have had any effect on that.

### **Resolution on federal involvement in public safety and law enforcement in the District**

Commissioner Mladinov observed that the ANC, like other ANCs, had been asked by local residents and organizations to adopt a statement expressing the interests and concerns of constituents related to recent federal actions and experiences around the District, since the Presidential decision to declare a public safety emergency in the District. The federal government had asking MPD to work with or for the federal government on crime reduction, and assigned National Guard and other federal agencies and agents to address immigration violations, remove homeless encampments, and take other actions to improve public safety and beautification in the District. Commissioner Mladinov proposed a resolution that upholding the Home Rule Charter and the laws covering the operations of MPD in the District, which allow the President to request the assistance of MPD but do not provide for the federal government to take control of MPD from the Police Chief; supporting the rule of law and individual rights in the District; and urging that federal agents working in the District be required to wear clear identification of the agency they work for and not conceal their own identity with face masks or other head coverings.

Commissioner Allen expressed particular support for the provision about requiring federal agents wearing clear identification. The Chair emphasized the importance of accountability in law enforcement. He also noted that the presence of federal agents had a chilling effect on the daily lives of people in the District, eroded trust in MPD, and reduced their ability to work with the public to reduce crime. When people are afraid of police, that hurts everyone and also hurts public safety. The federal actions were working against the goals of reducing crime, improving schooling, making it possible for people to get a quality education, hold jobs, and achieve productive lives. He but recognized that District officials are trying to strike a delicate balance between maintaining local rights and interests and not antagonizing the federal authorities.

Commissioner McCafferty observed that the courts were being overwhelmed with processing all the people arrested in the District, including for carrying open containers of alcohol or jumping Metro fare gates. The Chair added that the number of judges serving in the District had not been sufficient to handle all the cases coming before the courts, even without frivolous charges. Commissioner Bowers expressed support for the recommendations that federal agents should identify themselves and should not be masked unless it is absolutely critical for their safety, and law enforcement should absolutely be covered by constitutional restraints.

The Chair invited comments and questions from other meeting participants. Several supported the ANC in expressing concern about federal actions. There were also questions about Congressional proposals to take further authority away from the District. The Chair reported that 14 bills had been introduced in the House of Representatives to change laws governing the District, two of which the House had already passed, and the DC Council was already working to oppose passage of the proposed legislation, particularly in the Senate.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution, which if approved would be submitted to the Mayor and the DC Council. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5 - 0 to approve the resolution.

### **Commissioner Updates**

- DC FY 2026 budget

The Chair reported that the DC Council had adopted the District budget for FY 2026 and the Mayor had signed it. For FY 2025, although initially there had been fears that the Continuing Resolution adopted by Congress in the spring would mean the District would not be allowed to \$1.1 billion of its funds for the year, the Mayor and the Council had been able to identify ways to get that number down to only \$400 million. And for FY 2026, the Continuing Resolution that Congress was considering would exclude the District from the restrictions that had applied in FY 2025.

- RFK Stadium financing proposal

The Chair reported that the agreement reached between the Mayor and the Washington Commanders was being taken up by the Council, which had released its modified language and took a first vote in July. The second vote would be the day after the ANC October meeting.

The ANC had engaged in a survey about the RFK proposal using the GoVocal software platform, to gather feedback from constituents in time to present the results at the Council hearing in July, canvassing residents' on their views about the proposal, the costs for the District, how the funds would be used, and the potential benefits of the project.

- Better Bus program roll-out

Founder and member of the community group "Friends of the Bus" (FoBus) who goes by the name "Cal" reported on WMATA's launch of the new network of Metrobus routes on June 29, and the FoBus efforts to compile comments and recommendations for improvements in the system. He described several changes that have already been made, including to the services to Jackson-Reed High School, Deal Middle School, and MacArthur High School. In the first 2 or 3 days of school, there had been a lot of overcrowding on morning and afternoon buses so WMATA had added more buses. There had also been new lanes added in the Metro station at Tenleytown for students using free trip cards. He announced that FoBus would have a table at Chevy Chase Day on Saturday, September 20, from 1 - 5 pm, to share information about the current Metrobus services and there would also be resource pages online and a way to submit comments and suggestions for further adjustments to the Better Bus system.

Though FoBus was initially organized to serve riders in Chevy Chase, Cal had been getting comments from people around Ward 3. One concern is that for bus riders on Nebraska Avenue, the closest stop to Tenleytown Metro is south of Tenley Circle, which is a difficult walk for many seniors and people with disabilities. He mentioned it might be possible to install a new bus stop at Nebraska Avenue and Albemarle Street that would be closer to the Metro station. Another complaint he had heard (which also had come to ANC 3A) came residents at Cathedral Avenue and Idaho Avenue who are concerned about the increased amount of bus traffic since the Better Bus routes were initiated (now 15 buses per hour at weekday peak times, compared to only 4 buses before the June 29 launch).

He also noted that there are still numerous bus stops that only have paper signs on the bus stops to indicate what bus routes serve the stops. (Commissioner Mladinov noted in ANC 3A05, there are two bus stops on that same block of Idaho Avenue north of Cathedral Avenue with paper signs to supplement the metal signs at the stops, to let people know that the D90 as well as the D96 and the C85 make stops there.)

Cal said he was meeting with WMATA in the next week and would share those concerns and any others he had received. He invited residents of ANC 3A to let him know if they are interested in working together. The Chair said the ANC would stay in touch with him and share the information about the FoBus comment form and other resources with others in the ANC area.

- Status of "DC2050," the DC Office of Planning process to update the District Comprehensive Plan

Commissioner Mladinov reported that the DC Office of Planning had posted the results of its initial survey of what District residents said would be their priorities to see in the city in the next 25 years. The next phase of the project will be to begin developing recommendations for how to reflect those priorities in language for the Comprehensive Plan, and eventually turn the concepts into future land use maps and zoning. The ANC will continue to keep up with that process and let constituents know when there are opportunities for public presentations and public participation as the project proceeds.

- Newark Street Playground repairs

The Chair reported on the improvements the DC Department of Parks and Recreation had made at the playground, including repairs and replacement of the surface material, though there were still some delaminating pavers.

- Hearst Field re-sodding supported by Friends of Hearst Park

Commissioner Bowers reported that the lower field had been practically unusable because of neglect, though DPR had made efforts to get new grass to grow there. The Friends of Hearst Park – official partner of DPR at

the park -- had raised \$80,000 and worked with turf consultants to design and install a new sod field. It is a major improvement and a great example of community action, which is already getting daily use.

- National Presbyterian Church zoning request for its child development center at 4100 Nebraska Avenue The Chair explained that the church had applied to the Board of Zoning Adjustment for a Modification without Hearing (BZA Case #20992-A) to allow the existing child development center to be located in a different building on the church property at Nebraska Avenue and Van Ness Street than had originally been planned. The application noted the proposed change would not affect the number of students, teachers, parking spaces, or traffic. ANC 3A supported the original zoning request but did not take a position on the modification. There was no opposition and BZA approved the change on September 10.

- Zoning Commission schedule of hearings on proposed new text amendments to DC zoning regulations Commissioner Mladinov pointed out the Zoning Commission was holding hearings on several proposed zoning changes:

October 27 ZC 25-11 to change matter-of-right rear addition from 10 feet to 16 feet beyond the rear wall of the adjoining house(s) for row homes and semi-detached homes in the R and RF Zones, with a particular objective to allow space for a “Universal Bedroom” to accommodate individuals using a wheelchair (which requires a room of approximately 15 feet x 16 feet)

October 30 ZC 25-12 to consider two dozen provisions aimed at making zoning language clearer and more consistent through an Omnibus Text Amendment

November 6 ZC 25-08 to add rowhouses and multi-unit dwellings with up to four units to the list of development types that are matter-of-right (don’t require a Special Exception) in RA-1 zones, and to establish amended application requirements and new criteria, including design elements for the BZA to consider, for developments that continue to require a Special Exception in RA-1 zones.

More information was posted at: <https://maps.dcoz.dc.gov/casesdashboard/> Written comments are due at least 24 hours prior to the start of the hearing, and can be submitted by email to [zcsubmissions@dc.gov](mailto:zcsubmissions@dc.gov)

### **Community Announcements**

Owen Cox of the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) offered to help connect people to the appropriate officials on issues related to parks and playgrounds. He reported that the old RFK Stadium had come down, in preparation for the new project on the site which the Council and Mayor had just approved. He also provided a few additional notes on the federal “surge” in the District during the declared public safety emergency, the importance of protecting Home Rule, and the reality that the District is not fully autonomous and federal agents are still going to be present in the city.

Santiago Mendoza of Councilmember Frumin’s office announced the next “Workday in the Ward” would be on Thursday, September 25, at Breadfurst, 4434 Connecticut Avenue. He said they usually have walk-ins but for this session, the office was trying to get constituents to register in advance, and he provided a link [www.mattfruminward3.com](http://www.mattfruminward3.com) for more information. He referred everyone to the Councilmember’s latest newsletter (also on that website) for his response to recent federal actions in the District, read that statement, and cited the “Know Your Rights” reported that the Council would be holding its first legislative meeting since the August recess on Wednesday, September 17, at noon, including the second vote on the RFK Redevelopment Act, the Rental Act, and the police union bargaining unit. The hearing is available to watch online at the Council website <https://dccouncil.gov/hearings/>

He also announced there would be a Free DC kick-off for Ward 3 at St. Columba’s Episcopal Church on Saturday, September 27, from 1-3 pm, designed to share information and build more members. A constituent from McLean Gardens who is a new member of Free DC added that the organization was formed in the 1960s to help get Home Rule for the District and more voting rights. She said Free DC has 1,200 members in Ward 3, and the goal is to have 3,000 per ward, to increase the visibility and magnify their voice.

Laura Marks of Community and Government Relations at American University announced AU was hosting an “Encanto” sing-along for Family Movie Night on the AU Quad on Friday, September 19, at sunset.

## Open Forum

Constituent Maria Perisic provided an update on her experience with DC Water bills at her home. She hadn't heard any more from the utility and was just paying what they ask. It has been two years since the problem arose, and she still does not have an answer for why the charges were so high on her water bills, but DC Water had committed to investigating the meter. Maria said she is waiting for the utility to let her know a hearing date, after the investigation is done. The Chair asked her to let the ANC know when she hears from DC Water. Commissioner Bowers asked her to email DC Water again and cc. him, so he could pursue it with MOCRS and try to make sure she gets due process.

Elena Krajeski who lives in the Warwick condominium on Idaho Avenue reported that the building is not accessible for people with disabilities or those using wheelchairs. She had asked the HOA for an Accessibility Assessment but she had not gotten a response. She said she was thinking of trying to find a private source to conduct an assessment but wondered if there were any District Government programs that would provide that service. Commissioner Mladinov asked Elena to email her and she would look into that.

## Administrative Matters

1. July Meeting Minutes: The Secretary, Commissioner Mladinov, had prepared and circulated draft minutes of the July meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as presented, with the proviso that the Secretary would be allowed to make technical corrections in the minutes as needed.

2.. Monthly Financial Report: The Treasurer, Commissioner Gracemary Allen, read the July-August financial report:

### **ANC 3A July-August Financial Report**

Opening Balance (July 1): \$35,819.55

- Income: None

- Outgoing

Cash Withdrawals: None

Expenditures: None

Bank Fees: None (Monthly Fee waived)

Ending Balance (August 31): \$35,819.55

### 3. ANC 3A Draft Proposed FY 2025 Budget

The Chair announced that the Commissioners had prepared a draft budget that would be posted on the ANC 3A website for review and comments, and would be voted on in October. He described the biggest change from last year, an increase in the amount budgeted for grants. The ANC only recently adopted grant guidelines (see below) and is inviting applications from not-for-profit organizations proposing projects to benefit the local community.

### 4. Vote to approve purchase of a Nexigo 360° camera through Amazon

The Chair reported that in the winter the Office of ANCs (OANC) had approved funding from the Technical Assistance Fund (TAF) for the ANC to purchase a Nexigo 360° camera to use to conduct hybrid meetings, which would look and operate very much like the camera currently provided at the McLean Gardens but would belong to the ANC and could be used at any meeting location. But instead of making the purchase as the ANC Commissioners had expected, OANC had deposited the funds into the ANC 3A account, and asked the ANC to make the purchase. The most practical source for the camera was Amazon, but Amazon would not accept payment from the ANC's bank account. As a result, the Commission needed to vote to approve the purchase and designate the Chair to buy the purchase and then get reimbursed for the expenditure. With a 3-year protection plan, the total cost would be \$741.98, about \$15 less than the the amount of funding from TAF approved by OANC. The Chair moved to take a vote to approve the purchase, designate him to make the purchase, and approve reimbursing him for the cost. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

5. Amendment to ANC 3A Grant Guidelines: Commissioner Mladinov presented a proposed amendment to the ANC 3A grant guidelines that were approved at the July public meeting. She noted that based on the grant applications that had been received, it appeared that it would be important to allow more time for review of the applications before the presentation and vote.

She recommended requiring that instead of the existing provision calling for grant applications be shared with the ANC a week before the grant request is scheduled to be presented at an ANC public meeting, it would be helpful to adjust the timeline to require the grant application a month in advance of the presentation, in order to allow a longer time for ANC review and also review by the Office of ANC of each grant, to determine whether the proposed project would be an eligible use of ANC funds.

Commissioner Bowers suggested that the new provision ask for applications to be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before the ANC public meeting at which the grant would be presented, so the due date would not change from month to month. After discussion among the Commissioners, the Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed amendment to the grant guidelines, as recommended by Commissioner Bowers. He added a recommended change to language to allow applications to be submitted the next business day, if the 15<sup>th</sup> is on a weekend or holiday. The Chair moved to vote on the proposed language with the amendment. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the amended guidelines.

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, in hybrid format, in person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom and virtually by Zoom.

The Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

---

These minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 5 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on October 21, 2025, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

Attested by Commissioner Ann Lane Mladinov

