

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3B**  
**GLOVER PARK AND CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS**



**ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes**  
**January 18, 2018**

Commissioner Jackie Blumenthal (3B02) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Commissioners Ann Mladinov (3B01), Melissa Lane (3B03), Mary Young (3B04), and Brian Turmail (3B05) were also present, which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.)

**Election of Officers**

Commissioner Blumenthal announced that the first order of business was for the Commission to elect new officers. She reported that the officers had offered to serve for the coming year with one change: Brian Turmail volunteered to run for Chairman, Jackie Blumenthal for Vice Chairman, Mary Young as Treasurer and Ann Mladinov as Secretary, with Commissioner Melissa Lane working on Digital Media and Communications. The nominations were uncontested. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve the officers as nominated. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to elect the officers as proposed.

Commissioner Blumenthal also announced that the first ANC3B Annual Report for the community about activities in the 12 months ending December 1 had been published, as required under the 2016 ANC Omnibus Act, had been published and was posted on the ANC3B website.

**Approval of Agenda**

Newly elected Chairman Turmail took the chair and made a motion to approve the proposed agenda for the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

**Police Report**

Lt. Ralph Neal reported on crime statistics for the 30 days ending January 17, 2018, in Police Service Area (PSA) 204, which includes ANC3B as well as Woodley Park and parts of Cleveland Park. He reported one assault with a knife, one robbery with a gun and one other robbery in PSA 204 but not in ANC3B. For property crimes, he reported 1 burglary, 1 stolen vehicle, 6 thefts from autos, and 9 other thefts, making 17 total property crimes, a drop from the previous period.

Chairman Turmail asked about package delivery thefts during the holiday season. Lt. Neal reported that MPD officers in the area have continued to follow delivery vehicles to watch for potential thefts, which has kept the number of reported package thefts down. He also said that he continues to hear of speeding traffic on Cathedral Avenue west of 38<sup>th</sup> Street, and MPD has officers working on that.

No one from the DC Office of Fire and Emergency Management Services so Chairman Turmail moved to the next item on the agenda.

### **Presentation on the NEAR Act**

Neighborhood residents Clinton James and Martha Davidson, accompanied by Bailey Fox, gave a presentation about the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act, which was adopted by the city in spring 2016 and fully funded for the first time in FY2018. They outlined the legislation, which was designed to foster a public health approach to crime and crime prevention, focusing on helping avoid the causes of crime rather than relying solely on law enforcement. The law has four parts: a) a new Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement reporting to the Mayor to coordinate the city's overall violence prevention strategies, identify priority neighborhoods, PSAs, and people at risk of being involved or affected by violent crimes, develop positive relationships with young people through recreation and other activities, and connect area residents to services including employment and job-training opportunities; b) a new Office of Violence Prevention and Health Equity in the Department of Health whose mission includes having social workers present in hospitals to work with victims of violence and their families to encourage alternatives to further violence; c) a program to pair mental and behavioral health professionals with MPD officers; and d) MPD data collection and analyses on felony crimes, stop and frisk incidents and use-of-force incidents to be used for training and improved policing.

The speakers expressed concerns about the progress of implementation and the lack of information on what the city is doing to carry out the provisions of the law, and took a series of questions from the Commissioners and other participants. They urged the ANC to pass a resolution asking the city to implement all parts of the law and be more forthcoming on the process, especially MPD data collection and analyses. They suggested that resolutions would be most useful if they are passed before oversight hearings before the DC the Council Committee on Health and Human Services and Judiciary Committee, likely to occur in February or March. Several Commissioners expressed an interest in hearing from representatives of the city on the NEAR Act and Chairman Turmail proposed that the Commission could invite Deputy Mayor Kevin Donahue to the February meeting, as he is responsible for MPD and criminal justice issues and he has offered to speak to ANC3B.

Chairman Turmail announced that ANC3B would open a public comment period on the NEAR Act implementation and consider a resolution at the March 8 meeting.

### **Grant Request from Friendship Place "AimHire" Program**

Mariam Nek, the Director of Friendship Place's AimHire Program, presented a request for a grant from the Commission of \$2,500 to purchase a computer, computer work station, and at least 25 Tracphones (including initial calling time) for use by participants in the AimHire program. AimHire focuses on assisting formerly homeless individuals to gain the skills and certifications they need to find constructive employment and keep their jobs for the long term. The equipment will be available to help AimHire participants who are looking for jobs or who have jobs but no means to communicate with their employers. Commissioner Blumenthal asked if the Tracphones would be returned to the program for use by other participants once an individual has a job. Ms. Nek responded that some participants continue to use the phones and purchase additional minutes they need, while other participants return the phones to the program and buy their own smart phones once they are working.

Commissioner Mladinov asked if the entire grant would be used for purchasing equipment or if any staff or administrative overhead would be covered. Ms. Nek stated that the funds would all be used for purchasing the equipment and since the vendor is offering a lower cost for Tracphones than expected, AimHire hopes to purchase more than 25 phones with the grant. A resident asked where the AimHire office is located and how many people it helps each year. Ms. Nek said the office is located next to the Friendship Heights Metro station and the program helps 250 to 300 individuals each year. Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission approved the grant by a vote of 5-0.

### **Resolution on the Proposed Merger of Washington Gas Light and AltaGas**

Commissioner Mladinov presented a resolution to oppose the proposed merger of WGL and the Canadian company, AltaGas, in the proceeding before the DC Public Service Commission. She presented three main reasons for opposing the transaction: the minimal benefits the proposal offers to ratepayers (a one-time credit of \$50 per customer), the weak financial status of AltaGas, and the fact that the proposed merger includes no commitments to increase infrastructure investment or make operational changes to improve service to customers.

Commissioner Blumenthal pointed out that the ANC had posted the draft resolution and background information on the ANC3B website in January for member of the community to review before the meeting. One resident asked about the total number of customers Washington Gas serves in the District, how many live in Master Metered Apartments (MMA), and whether they would receive the same bill credit as other residents if the merger were approved. Commissioner Mladinov offered to provide those figures and noted that in past cases the PSC has generally ensured that merger benefits go to MMA customers. Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

### **Updates and Information**

Commissioner Blumenthal announced that the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) would be holding a community meeting on Wednesday, January 31, at 6 pm at Guy Mason Recreation Center to discuss proposals for the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Observatory Circle, including removing the No Left Turn at rush hour and installing a new traffic signal at that intersection. She encouraged neighbors to participate.

No one from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) was in attendance so there was no presentation about the activities of the OAG. That will be rescheduled for another meeting.

### **Open Forum**

Phil Thomas, the liaison to Ward 3 from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations, reminded residents that the city would be picking up holiday trees placed where recycling is picked up. He also committed that this season city crews would pick up holiday trees left in front of homes even though the policy is now to have trees placed at the same location as residential recycling pick-ups.

Mr. Thomas said the final round of DPW leaf collection should be complete, but he asked residents who hadn't gotten their holiday trees or leaf pick-ups to contact him or DC 311. Mr. Thomas shared his contact information for residents who need service: 202-341-7706 or [phil.thomas@dc.gov](mailto:phil.thomas@dc.gov).

Mr. Thomas also reminded residents that the city mulches holiday trees and greenery at the Fort Totten Transfer Station and offers free mulch to residents, schools and other groups.

Ona Balkus from Councilmember Mary Cheh's office announced that CM Cheh would be holding a hearing on January 27 about the leaf collection program and invited residents to participate. She emphasized that CM Cheh wanted the hearing to be solution-oriented.

### **Administrative Matters**

Chairman Turmail introduced the minutes of the Commission's December public meeting and made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as prepared.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for December, noting there had not been any activity. (One check issued in December had never been delivered to the recipient so she put a "stop" on it, and it did not appear on the report.)

**ANC3B December 2017 Financial Report**

**OPENING BALANCE: \$10,619.65**  
**Income: \$ 0.00**  
**Total Income: \$ 0 .00**  
**Outgoing: \$ 0.00**  
**Total Outgoing: \$ 0.00**  
**CLOSING BALANCE \$10,619.65**

Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the ANC3B monthly financial report for December. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the financial report as presented.

Commissioner Young also presented the financial report for the First Quarter of FY2018. She noted that she had been unable to complete all the entries for receipts in the financial report because the ANC information is not yet available using the city's online software system, so she had to note the missing entries by hand. Chairman Turmail made a motion to approve the First Quarter Financial Report as presented. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the quarterly report.

Commissioner Young also made a motion to approve expenditure of \$25 to the city's ANC Security Fund to protect against embezzlement or loss of ANC funds. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

Chairman Turmail presented the dates of ANC3B public meetings for the rest of 2018, which are planned for the second Thursday of the month (except August, when there is no meeting). He made a motion to approve the meeting schedule as proposed. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve. The meeting dates are posted on the ANC3B website.

Chairman Turmail announced the next public meeting of the Commission would be Thursday, February 8, 2018 (the second Thursday of the month as usual).

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.