

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



**ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes**  
**March 9, 2017**

Chairman Jackie Blumenthal (3B02) called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm. Commissioners Ann Mladinov (3B01), Melissa Lane (3B03), and Mary Young (3B04) were also in attendance, which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.) Commissioner Brian Turmail (3B05) was out of town on business and was not able to participate.

Chairman Blumenthal moved to vote on adopting the proposed agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the agenda.

**Police Report**

Lt. Ralph Neal provided the crime statistics for the past month. He reported that property crimes were down significantly for the past month compared to the same month in 2016, from 49 last year to 33 this year. Specifically, property crimes dropped from 49 last year to 33 this year, including a drop in thefts from 30 to 16, and a drop in thefts from autos from 15 to 10. Violent crimes were up from none last year to 2 this year, including a robbery near the police station (without a gun) and an assault with a dangerous weapon (not a gun) on the 3700 block of W Street. Two vehicles were stolen from the 3700 block of Calvert Street.

Lt. Neal also reported that the Second District has been experiencing a series in street robberies involving a group of three to four males in upper Northwest, particularly Tenleytown. Chevy Chase, MD, has had similar incidents in recent months and MPD is working closely with the Montgomery County Police on these crimes. A focused Mission Team of plainclothes officers has been assigned to the area to spot this type of activity and apprehend the individuals behind it.

**Discussion with Elissa Silverman, At-large Member, DC Council**

CM Silverman attended the meeting along with her Chief of Staff, Michele Blackwell, and spoke on the District budget and her own priorities. She emphasized that the spring is budget season and she urged people to come to oversight hearings about how individual city agencies are doing and what they hope to do in the coming year, as well as to budget hearings once the Mayor's budget is released on April 4. Everyone is welcome to testify or submit written comments to let the Council know what is important to residents. She said her priorities are to make the streets and roads safe, improve public safety, and address housing needs, which she recognized is an area where Commissioner Young has been actively working.

CM Silverman mentioned the bill she had presented at the June meeting of ANC3B on Universal Paid Leave and noted that the Council had voted in December to adopt a new system to allow individuals to take care of themselves or a family member when they're sick without losing their income. She is encouraging the Mayor to set up the basic Information technology (IT) system that would be needed to implement either the Council's legislation or CM Mary Cheh's alternative proposal so that protection will be available in future years. She explained that the capital costs of the IT and administrative systems are the only part of

the leave program that would be paid for by the city while the benefits and annual administrative costs would be covered by payroll taxes on employers. The city has estimated the start-up capital costs as \$40 to \$80 million, based on the model of the health care exchange, but she expects the costs to be lower than that because the leave program is more like an unemployment program than like the health care exchanges.

As Chairman of the Committee on Labor and Work Force Development, she is also concerned about the number of hourly workers, especially those who do not work a traditional 9-5 schedule and have shifts that don't fit the standard hours of child care centers. She is asking the Mayor fund a \$1 million study of the need for child care to meet those non-traditional schedules and how to pay for it. She noted that with the success of creating pre-kindergarten programs for 3- and 4-year olds, child care centers are left to serve younger children who require more attention and therefore higher cost care. That has meant a shift in costs from families with pre-K children to those with infants and toddlers, and the city may want to subsidize child care more than it does now.

She commended the Mayor for putting \$100 million per year into the Housing Trust Fund to construct affordable housing, and would also like the Mayor to do more for people who are homeless and need lifetime support to stay in stable housing. She emphasized the importance of getting homeless families out of DC General and motels, which cost as much as \$150/night for substandard units. She also supports extending the hours at the city's recreation centers and outdoor pools, to open at 6 am and stay open later; more and longer jobs for young people; and better training and assistance for adults with barriers to employment such as those dealing with substance abuse issues or returning from prison.

CM Silverman took questions from residents. Issues included:

- The level of annual rent increases allowed on rent-controlled apartments. She and CM Bonds and others are trying to cap at the level of inflation rather than the current 2% on top of inflation.
- The proposal to give small businesses Residential Parking Permits. She is not supporting that bill and believes it is not well designed for areas like Glover Park where parking is already scarce.
- Support for senior services. She expressed support for senior villages and the concept of a virtual center to provide services to seniors in Wards 2 and 3 where there is no senior wellness center.
- Use of excess revenues including tax cuts. The city's Chief Financial Officer is trying to build the reserves in its four savings accounts (two of them mandated by Congress and 2 locally created) so they have at least 60 days of working capital. When they get to the target, half of the surplus will go into the Housing Trust Fund. She explained that the tax cuts 2 years ago were designed to give back excess revenues to help residents by raising the personal deductions used by residents who do not itemize deductions, including lower income residents, and also to help the economy by lowering taxes on incorporated and unincorporated business. One tax cut she did not support was the increase from \$1 million to \$5 million in the size of an estate that will be exempt from city estate taxes.

### **Grant Requests**

1. Wilson High School Instrumental Music Booster Club (under the umbrella of the Wilson Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO). Brian Cohen, Chair of the Instrumental Music Booster Club at Wilson, the feeder high school for ANC3B, presented a grant request of \$2,500 to repair musical instruments and equipment and support some new purchases for the instrument program. DCPS does not provide sufficient funding for the program, including the orchestra, jazz band, and pit band, and it has been reduced over the years. The booster club is trying to build back the opportunities for students and is seeking funds from several sources, including ANCs, to cover the shortfall. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant.

2. Stoddert Elementary Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). On behalf of the Stoddert PTO, Jamie Peterson, the Assistant Track Coach, requested a grant of \$1,671.70 to purchase hurdles and supplies for the high jump and pole vault for the school track team. This year, 40 Stoddert students are participating in the track team compared to 24 last year. Parents have contributed funds to purchase uniforms, but the team has little equipment beyond a grassy field for practice. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant.

3. Glover Park Village (GPV). Patricia Clark, President of the Glover Park Village, requested a grant of \$2,500 to cover the cost of liability insurance (\$2,336) to allow Village volunteers to be able to provide services, plus postage for general mailings (\$164). Commissioner Young had checked with Mr. Lawrence Perry, Deputy Director of the DC Auditor's Office, and was told the ANC is permitted to give a grant for this purpose, though Commissioners Blumenthal and Lane expressed concerns about giving grants to cover annual operating costs such as insurance. They noted that community organizations can't count on getting ANC funds every year, because the ANC gets a range of grant requests every year and can't assure that funds are available for a particular organization or purpose. To sustain operations, an organization has to find reliable sources of funding to pay for its annual operations. The Commission tries to give its grants for one-time emergency needs and projects that directly serve people within ANC3B's boundaries. Nonetheless, since GPV has made positive contributions to supporting Glover Park residents through the years, the ANC agreed that funding these operating costs for one year would be beneficial to the community. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to vote on the request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the grant.

#### **Approval of Letter Regarding Proposed Pepco Rate Increase**

Commissioner Mladinov presented a draft letter for ANC 3B to send to the Public Service Commission (PSC) opposing the nearly \$78 million rate increase requested by Pepco/Exelon. The letter states that such a large increase would cause hardship to businesses and residents, especially seniors and others who live on limited or fixed incomes, and it would also set a precedent for future rate increases and other decisions by the PSC in regulating the local electric utility, now owned by Exelon. The ANC urges the PSC to accept the recommendations of the Office of People's Counsel which has identified more than \$50 million that Pepco should not be allowed to recover from customers, including the cost of investments that are not yet in place and serving customers; enhanced executive compensation packages; and a higher rate of return to Exelon. The letter asks the PSC to scrutinize all the elements of the rate request and deny any that do not meet the strict standards for fair, just and reasonable charges to ratepayers. When Exelon purchased Pepco, it was clear that Exelon wanted to get the reliable returns guaranteed to regulated utilities in order to shore up the earnings from its more risky and less profitable unregulated business, notably nuclear power plants, but subsidies to Exelon's flagging profits on power production are not an allowable cost to be passed on to Pepco ratepayers. Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve sending the letter. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the letter.

#### **Updates**

DC Water Green Infrastructure Project in Glover Park. Commissioner Blumenthal reported that DC Water has announced the locations of proposed green infrastructure practices in the Glover Park area, including rain gardens and permeable pavement in some alleys and parking lanes. DC Water has posted a map of all the proposed sites and will let residents know closer to the time of installation about when work will be done. They are trying to phase the construction to minimize disruption to traffic and parking. DC Water will maintain the green infrastructure projects and monitor how they are performing, compared to their targets. This is the first phase of DC Water's multi-year program to reduce stormwater run-off west of Rock

Creek and avert sewage overflow into the rivers from our Combined Sewer Systems. DC Water has entered into a consent decree with the federal government to reduce sewage outflows by 96% by 2030. The green infrastructure is designed to save the city the substantial cost of building additional under-ground storage tunnels along the river's edge to hold excess stormwater as a way to prevent overflows. See <https://www.dewater.com/clean-rivers-project>

Possible Sale of Union Building. At the ANC3B meeting in February, Dr. Lawrence Singer presented his proposal for opening a holistic dentistry practice in the former International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) building at the corner of Calvert and Wisconsin. Since that time, Dr. Singer notified the ANC that he has dropped his bid to purchase the property, apparently because IUOE would not accept a contingency clause based on getting a zoning variance to use the property for medical offices.

WMATA Budget Decision on Bus Route 37. At the February meeting, the ANC voted to oppose WMATA's proposal to discontinue Bus Route 37 (limited stop service during weekday rush hours between Friendship Heights and the National Archives via Massachusetts Avenue). CM Cheh joined in the opposition. Because of the large number of passengers using the 37 and its effectiveness in reducing crowding on other bus lines, WMATA's final FY2018 budget will keep the current 37 bus route.

### **Open Forum**

Pat Clark thanked the ANC as well as the Director of Senior Programs at DPR for helping the Glover Park Village (GPV) to be able to schedule programs at the Guy Mason Recreation Center, after 2 ½ years. New programming began on Monday, March 6, with a lecture by Norman Birnbaum about the German election. GPV is planning a series of lectures, and also hopes to have a movie group.

Commissioner Young mentioned that CVS in ANC3F is proposing a flashing electronic sign in the store that would be visible from the street. This is a concern that has come up around the city under existing sign regulations and some measures have been proposed to prevent additional flashing electronic signs. Commissioner Young said the ANCs will continue to watch this issue.

Ona Balkus from CM Cheh's office urged people who live in rent controlled apartments and qualify as elderly or disabled to register with DCOA to get exempted from a rent increase beyond the cost of living.

A resident asked for an update on the redevelopment of the Holiday Inn on Wisconsin Avenue. Chairman Blumenthal responded that the developer would be breaking ground soon and that Trader Joe's was the name being circulated as the tenant for the small grocery in that development.

Another resident reported that he would be organizing a walk in Glover-Archbold Park to help people keep up with developments related to the replacement of the sewer pipes that run the length of the valley, including the history of the pipes and the environmental conditions in the park. The Commissioners noted that they are monitoring DC Water's plans for the replacement of the sewer pipes and are expecting a public announcement soon about the alternatives that DC Water has presented to the National Park Service, which will involve public presentations of the options and a formal request for comments.

### **Administrative Matters**

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to approve the minutes of the Commission's February public meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as prepared.

Treasurer Mary Young presented the monthly financial report for February:

**ANC3B February 2017 Financial Report****OPENING BALANCE:** \$12,716.93

Income: \$0.00

Outgoing: \$0.00

Check #1266 \$25.00 for ANC Security Fund has not cleared the account yet.

**CLOSING BALANCE:** \$12,716.93

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adopt the monthly financial report. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the report.

Chairman Blumenthal announced that the Commission had explored options for purchasing a sound system for the ANC to use at meetings, including a speaker, two wireless microphones, and required cables and accessories, for approximately \$1000. She made a motion to approve purchase of the equipment. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the purchase.

Chairman Blumenthal announced the next public meeting of the Commission would be Thursday, April 6, 2017, which is the first Thursday of the month rather than the usual second Thursday.

Chairman Blumenthal made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.