

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



April 13, 2014

From: Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3B
P.O. Box 32312
Washington, DC 20007

To: Emanuel D. Briggs
Manager, Community Outreach, External Affairs
District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority
5000 Overlook Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20032

re: **ANC 3 Views on Behalf of the Communities of Glover Park and Cathedral Heights
Regarding DC Water's Green Infrastructure Plan**

ANC 3B appreciated DC Water's attendance and presentation at our March 13, 2014 meeting i to discuss DC Water's Green Infrastructure Plan and Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Modification for Green Infrastructure. Seth Charde, Green Infrastructure Planning Coordinator, Bethany Bezak, Green Infrastructure Planning Coordinator and Myra Maultsby, Project Manager, DP Consultants, Government and Public Relations, provided understandable and comprehensive information about DC Water's Green Infrastructure Plan. The presentation helped us understand the concern about combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into our local waterways and how Green Infrastructure (GI) can help alleviate this problem.

Many in attendance were not aware of the that sewage is dumped into local waterways after heavy rains due to a combined sewer system which serves 33% of D.C.. Most in attendance were given their first exposure to the different environmental initiatives that support a Green Infrastructure Plan. The presentation also provided insight into the comprehensive multibillion-dollar plan to build tunnels, sewers and diversions and to update pumping stations to accomplish the full scope of DC Clean Rivers Project. The majority in attendance were previously unaware of how these projects were funded.

ANC 3B would like to share the following comments on this project. These comments were unanimously approved by ANC 3B at our April 10, 2014 public meeting:

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3B04
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
MARY C. YOUNG

3B05
S. GLOVER PARK
BRIAN A. COHEN

- We are supportive of the use of green infrastructure, and pleased that our community is in the Green Infrastructure (GI) Project area. We are eager to share in the benefits of GI projects in our neighborhood, and hope that we are at the front of the line when these projects are planned and implemented.
- We are concerned that DC Water officials at the meeting indicated that water models used in the project are based on decades-old data, and do not take the impacts of climate change - which is likely to significantly modify rainfall patterns and other key environmental factors - into account. The use of out-of-date models and DC Water's failure to consider the impacts of climate change imperils the long-term success of the project.
- We seek continued involvement in this project, and ask that that any construction or installation of Green Infrastructure (GI) initiatives in the Glover Park –Cathedral Heights area be addressed to the community prior to commencement of such projects. We also ask that once construction or installation of GI initiatives are approved and scheduled to begin, that DC Water work closely with other district agencies (DDOT, MPD, DGS) to ensure that pedestrian and vehicular safety is enforced and surrounding environments are protected.
- We ask that that the public be made aware if there is an anticipated requirement to increase the residential sewer and impervious area charge above what is established under the Long Term Control Plan Modification for Green Infrastructure.
- We are concerned about the proposed delay by DC Water of the completion of the Clean Rivers Project. Our rivers and streams have been polluted by sewage for decades, and we are eager to see this practice end. We are disappointed that DC Water has proposed a five-year extension of the deadline to clean up CSO's in conjunction with the Green Infrastructure Plan. DC Water provided no clear reason why the good - the Green Infrastructure Plan - has to be combined with the bad - extension of the deadline. We are sensitive to concerns about costs and the impact of the Clean Rivers Project on water and sewer bills. However, we ask that DC Water reconsider the delay in completion of the project. Our preferred approach is that DC Water implement the Green Infrastructure Plan and complete the Clean Rivers Project in a timely fashion.

Respectfully,

Brian A. Cohen

Brian A. Cohen, ANC 3B Chair
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