

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



**Resolution Supporting the District's Participation in Lights-Out Hour DC
on Saturday March 25, 2023, from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm**

Lights-Out Hour DC is intended as Washington D.C.'s inaugural participation with international *Earth Hour*. *Earth Hour* is an annual event celebrated around the world to encourage individuals, communities and businesses to turn off non-essential lights at night to cut back on light pollution. Excess outdoor lighting affects the health and natural patterns of wildlife as well as the health and wellbeing of city residents.

Light pollution has grown exponentially in recent years, radically altering the night-time ecosystem, disrupting natural processes (physical, mental, behavioral) that all life has evolved to over eons, and upending the 24-hour pattern of lightness alternating with darkness. Artificial lights at night disrupt this circadian rhythm and, if lights are allowed to shine out too brightly, are negatively implicated in a spectrum of mounting harms having serious repercussions for all living creatures, both human and wildlife.

There is also a cost to our air quality as excess lighting leads to additional emissions from powerplants. Reducing unnecessary lighting or dimming excessively bright lighting will help the District of Columbia meet our goal of achieving a 56% reduction in carbon emissions by 2032 and becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

The ANC agrees with the sense of this resolution while also being aware that the Glover Park area does not contribute to light pollution. In fact, the ANC recently explored areas that are too dark at night for pedestrian safety. Lighting in Glover Park is restricted by the Naval Observatory's need to have a clear view of the stars and by the National Park Service's concern for wildlife at night.

ANC 3B resolves that we support the city's engagement with *Lights-Out Hour DC*. For one hour on March 25, from 8:30 to 9:30 pm, ANC3B encourages the shutting off or dimming of all non-essential lights. We want to see the District of Columbia join with other cities, countries and peoples around the world in this enormously symbolic act. We hope that this will dramatize the need to address light pollution and so ensure that our use of lighting conforms to the natural environment of darkness at night.

This Resolution was APPROVED by a vote of 6-0 at a duly noticed public meeting on March 9, 2023, at which a quorum was present (four of the six members constitute a quorum).

Jackie Blumenthal, Chair

Melissa Lane, Secretary

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3B04
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
J. KEVIN CARROLL

3B05
S. GLOVER PARK
GUPI HOWIE

3B06
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
BEN BERGMANN