

# Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of April 11, 2024

Edited for Clarity and Readability

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## Call to Order [0:00:00]

**Blumenthal:** All right, good evening, everyone. Welcome to ANC 3B's--

**Lane:** They're still coming.

**Blumenthal:** Oh, I'll wait.

**Lane:** Okay, you're good.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, good evening, everybody. Welcome to ANC 3B's April meeting. We have all six commissioners here. Myself, Commissioner Lane, Commissioner Carroll, Commissioner Lavezzo, Commissioner Bergmann, and Commissioner Howie.

## Approval of Agenda [0:00:45]

**Blumenthal:** And our first order of business is to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bergmann, did you have something to add here?

**Bergmann:** Yes, I would like to move to amend the agenda to add a letter addressing proposed cuts to early childhood education. And then I'd also like to move to remove the Glover Park Village grant request from the agenda for this month. As I understand it, it is being revised.

**Blumenthal:** I'll second that motion. Any discussion of amending the agenda? All in favor of amending the agenda? Okay, the motion carries 6-0. Just for the audience, could you please keep yourself on mute when you're not being asked to talk? And also turn your video off unless you're being asked to talk. That would help, thank you.

## Police Report [0:01:47]

**Blumenthal:** Lieutenant Johnson, you can turn your video on, and your audio. We'd love to hear from you with the police report.

**Johnson:** Hello, everyone. This is Lieutenant Johnson from the Second District. I'm going to leave my video off today. I'm still at home trying to get ready for work tonight.

**Blumenthal:** Okay.

**Johnson:** I'm Zooming in from home. And I have the police report for Glover Park ANC 3B for this month. This same time last month we had nine reported crimes. In this period we have ten reported crimes. We had a big event on Sunday. I don't know if you saw it in Glover Park, in the 3900 block of Davis Place you might have seen a lot of police activity there. That involved a sex abuse case so I can't say too much about that, but I'll give you a brief overview about what happened.

**Howie:** Sorry, can you repeat that? It was a sex abuse case?

**Johnson:** Yes, sex abuse. Yes. Yep, where two men met online and one tried to force the other one to perform sexual acts on the other one using a weapon. So we were able to, you know, set up a barricade situation and get the suspect out of his house. There was an arrest made, and that case is ongoing. We also had one ADW -- that's an assault with a dangerous weapon -- there was a frying pan involved in that case. That was domestic. Two family members, one assaulted the other one with a frying pan. And that was also closed by an arrest. We arrested the abuser. And we had one theft from auto, that's good. We had four thefts, and three motor vehicle thefts. And the motor vehicle thefts were all scooters. They were all locked, and suspects cut the locks from the scooters. So if you have a scooter, please buy the best lock you can buy, because I guess the cheaper ones they can easily defeat, and take your vehicle. Other than that, that's all we have for crime, for the reportable crimes. For Glover Park, we have those ten, and two were serious. They were both closed by arrest. The other one was one theft, four thefts from stores, and three motor vehicle thefts. Any traffic concerns anyone have? Or any questions about anything I talked about from anybody?

**Blumenthal:** Commissioners questions first.

**Howie:** Lieutenant Johnson, I just wanted to point out I was at Safeway the other day, and there were some MPD police officers out front who were offering like the club for steering wheels for people who own a Kia and a Hyundai. I guess the MPD is giving them out for free, and from what I understand all you have to do is bring your registration showing that you own the car to 2D's headquarters or any headquarter, and they will give you a club for free to put on your car.

**Johnson:** Yes, exactly. If you have one of those vehicles. But you have to live in DC and be a resident, and show your registration. They will give you one for free. Yes.

**Howie:** Okay.

**Blumenthal:** Commissioner Carroll--

**Howie:** And was there-- Sorry, was there certain years that it only involved, or just any Kia or Hyundai?

**Johnson:** I believe it was any Kia or Hyundai.

**Blumenthal:** Commissioner Carroll, you had raised your hand.

**Carroll:** Yes, I just wanted to ask about the motor vehicle thefts with scooters. I know there was a motorcycle stolen from the property here where I live. I also know that my motorcycle was stolen last month. Is there some particular thing that the police department is doing to try to address these motorcycle and motor scooter thefts?

**Johnson:** Well, yeah, when we see a rise in thefts, any kind of theft, we always try to address those directly. With increased patrols, we try to-- We also take information from the owners and get the VIN numbers. We put them in our tag reading system. Did your motorcycle have a tag on it? Did it have a tag? Was it registered?

**Carroll:** Oh, yes.

**Johnson:** Yeah, you actually had a real motorcycle, that'--

**Carroll:** Yes, well, my neighbor also had a real motorcycle, and apparently covered. And the perpetrators were working on it down by the park, by Glover Park, near the community garden, when someone said, "Hey, you know--" The owner was talking to the officers, and somebody came around the corner and said, "They're working on it down there." They were chased away, but it seems to be a real rash of thefts of motorcycles, mopeds. I suspect it's probably not just in this neighborhood, and I don't know if there's a particular task force or anything that the police department has assigned to this.

**Johnson:** No, we don't have a task force assigned to it as of yet. But like I said, we look at crime trends. If there's an uptick in your neighborhood, like three or four in one area, we try to get that area saturated with police and look for those suspects. But those scooters, most of them are not registered. They never were registered, those are hard to recover. But your motorcycle has a VIN number, I assume, and a tag? Most of the time we are able to get those back to the owners unless they were took to be resold or something like that.

**Carroll:** It does, and there was some discussion of whether or not the Officer Navarro who was working the case was able to get access to the State Department cameras. Because it was right underneath the State Department cameras right up here on 39th and Fulton.

**Johnson:** Yeah, I'm glad you mentioned Navarro. She's our specialist on motor vehicle thefts. She's on the case, she has a high recovery rate, and she's very well versed in stolen autos, cars, motor scooters, and motorcycles. She's excellent. She's part of our Crime Suppression Team, and she just focuses on motor vehicle thefts, period.

**Carroll:** Well, you know, I'd appreciate it if I could get my motorcycle back. But I'd appreciate it even more if we could stop the thefts.

**Johnson:** Yeah, that's the goal. The goal is zero thefts and zero crime, sir. That's always the

goal, and working on it.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, Commissioner Bergmann, you have a question?

**Bergmann:** Yeah, no, I'm just curious. You may not know, Officer Johnson, but there was police activity in recent days on Cathedral Avenue near Idaho, sort of that area. I don't know if you know what was going on there. There was a lot of police activity, a lot of ambulances and fire trucks.

**Johnson:** Exactly, I know exactly what you're talking about. That's 4000 Cathedral? That was US Marshals doing an eviction, and the person was a mental health consumer. They refused to come out. This mental health consumer owned a weapon, and she displayed her weapon to the marshals and refused to come out. She advised the marshal that their eviction was unlawful, and she refused to come out. But they got her out without using any force. But those ambulances and the SWAT team, all of that was just precautionary. The negotiators came, they negotiated with the female. The Department of Mental Health showed up, and were able to get her out of there without using any force. And she was arrested for, you know, making threats. Her weapon was recovered, and hopefully she doesn't get it back.

**Bergmann:** Okay, thank you so much.

**Johnson:** Yeah, and she's receiving treatment. I'm sorry, go ahead.

**Blumenthal:** Right, sorry. Commissioner Lavezzo?

**Lavezzo:** Yeah, two quick questions for you. We got some reports, well, not directly to our ANC, but through the listserv and other areas of the internet that there was a credit card skimmer found at the Safeway on Wisconsin Avenue. I was curious if that hit your radar yet, and if you had anything for us?

**Johnson:** Well, they're still trying to verify if that's a skimmer or not. That was forwarded to our financial crimes unit, internet, you know, and fraud unit. They're investigating that. I don't know if that was verified to be an actual skimmer or new keypad. I know what you're talking about, but it's still an ongoing investigation.

**Lavezzo:** Perfect, thank you. Second question is more of an FYI thing, but we did get a question from a constituent about mopeds, operation of mopeds, and I'm just curious what the limitations on mopeds are in DC before it needs to be registered and, you know, the rider needs a motorcycle license. Is there a limit to speed, or engine size, or anything like that? Because there are a lot of delivery drivers out there now using mopeds, which it's good they're not in cars, but just more of a point of curiosity in case we get any questions about it.

**Johnson:** I believe it's 250cc's is considered a motorcycle that you need to be registered. Anything lower than that I think you can just rent without having any kind of permit or anything

like that.

**Lavezzo:** Great, thank you.

**Johnson:** All right.

**Blumenthal:** Pat, did you have a question? Pat, turn your audio on.

**Clark:** I have two questions, both about this thing last Sunday. Number one, is there a photograph of the person who was the center of all this activity that's public, that we can see?

**Johnson:** Not yet, but if he's, of course if he's convicted of a sexual crime, he'll be one of those sexual offenders. He'll be on a registry. But we can't, not yet.

**Clark:** I didn't know if those little booking pictures are made public or not.

**Johnson:** No.

**Clark:** Yeah, my other one was more of a comment. It turns out that we live right behind the apartment building that he was in, and nobody in the neighborhood seemed to know what building the problem was in, that I talked to, anyway. And so I kept asking officers who went by, "Can we use our backyard? Are we in any danger?" And they kept saying, "No, no, no, it's far away." Well, around 7 o'clock I went out and a guy in a black jacket and a helmet and all that came by and I asked him. He said, "Show me where." And we walked over down the alley a little and he said, "Yeah, it's right there. It's on that--" I think he said the top floor, I'm not sure. The windows face the building next to it, and it had-- The person stuck their head out the window with a gun. They could have shot into our yard, or our house. So I was glad to know that we needed to stay out of the back of the house. I was annoyed that all the other people would tell me, "It's an active crime scene, and we can't tell you anything." So anyway, there was no police presence in the back of that building where he was in. And, anyway, that's just my comment.

**Johnson:** Yeah, those things happen so suddenly and so fast. We try to get as many resources in the area as we can. But I will say that the guy with the gun was not real.

**Clark:** Yeah, he took-- I read that later, but we didn't know that.

**Johnson:** Yeah, we didn't know it at the time either. But he specifically targeted one person that he met online. It wasn't like he was trying to be an active shooter. He was like a predator.

**Clarkson:** Yeah, that's-- I mean, that's a relief to know that now.

**Johnson:** Yeah.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, Carol, is that you with your hand up?

**Carol:** Hi, yes. Sir, I just wanted to-- I'm the constituent with the moped question. I just want to understand, sir, because I'm not clear that I understand. Are all mopeds street legal? And they don't need to be registered, or have a license? And the operator of the moped doesn't have to follow District vehicle laws?

**Johnson:** Well, every vehicle in the street should follow traffic laws. I think it's hard to enforce those traffic laws, because you know we have a pursuit policy that we can't pursue for traffic reasons. ATVs are not-- ATVs and mopeds are different. ATVs are those like four-wheelers and dirt bikes. Those are not street legal. They cannot be ridden on streets at any time. But mopeds, yeah, mopeds are a little bit different. You see mopeds being rented by-- There are companies in DC that you can rent a moped from, and think less than 125cc's, I don't think you need a license. More than 250, you do. So there's different, it's different rules for the mopeds, than the ATVs. Atvs are always-- No ATVs should be on the street. No dirt bikes, no four-wheeler at all right. Mopeds, some can.

**Carol:** Okay, but to the Commissioner's comment earlier, he's correct. They don't have licenses, and they don't seem to be following District laws as far as operating them safely. And so I just would like to ask, kindly, if there is some stepped up enforcement to turn on the lights and ask them to pull over. Or when they stop to pick up all of these food that they're delivering in my neighborhood, I know there's one man in particular who's driving around all the time, it's very unsafe, and he laughs when I ask him, you know, "Sir." And he just laughs and drives away. It's just, I just think that the MPD could do a little more as far as safety. If you don't want to pursue them, that's fine, but I think maybe there could be some increased effort to take these moped drivers off the roads.

**Johnson:** Well, we do make arrests for moped drivers. It does happen, but not real often, and they're probably not seen. We do it when they stop to get gas, or when they stop to, you know, like you say, make deliveries, and they're seen doing these activities. They are enforced when we can. Yes, but you won't see anyone turn lights on and actually run into stop signs and speeding up trying to catch them. That's not part of our policy and procedures. It's against our orders to chase those guys.

**Carol:** Understood. All right, well, I appreciate the increased effort. Thank you, sir.

**Johnson:** Arrests are being made.

**Blumenthal:** Are there any more questions for Lieutenant Johnson? Okay, thank you very much, Lieutenant. Have a good week.

**Johnson:** All right, I'll talk to you next month. Everybody be safe. If you have any questions, Ms. Blumenthal, just email me or call me.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, we will. Thank you so much.

## Old Business [0:17:05]

### Zoning Variance Request, 3929 Fulton St. [0:17:05]

**Blumenthal:** We have an old business item on the agenda that belongs to Commissioner Carroll. But I don't think we're gonna take it up tonight, is that right?

**Carroll:** That's my understanding. I have not heard from the party in question about their change of the driveway. They resubmitted their plans to save a tree, but I haven't heard anything back from them since early last month.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, well then we'll just move on. And if they come back, they come back. All right, thank you.

## New Business [0:17:49]

### Zoning Variance Request, 2232 40th St. [0:17:42]

**Blumenthal:** New business. Commissioner Howie, you have a zoning variance request in your SMD. You want to take that up?

**Howie:** Yes, it's-- Let's see if Marty Sullivan is on. Oh, yeah, Marty, if you wanted to go ahead and introduce it. The address is 2232. It's a shared building to the building that we discussed over the summertime. I believe it's the same owners as well. From what I understand, they had difficulty reaching the adjacent neighbors at 2230 despite multiple attempts to reach them.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, Marty, you're on, so you have to come.

**Sullivan:** Okay, thank you, Commissioners. Marty Sullivan, I'm zoning counsel for the applicant. And this actually is a different owner than the building next door, but same architect. And pretty much a very similar, a mirrored kind of project, too. And I believe the owner's with us tonight. I see his name here, Mr. Railan. And Dave Bloom, the architect, is here. It's a special exception. And there's two special exceptions. The one, it's an RA-1 special exception, which is required any time you add units to an RA-1 building. It's required to be special exception, so there's no actual relief from any of the development standards. And then the other thing is the same relief we got for the other one. There's a requirement that parking be completely screened in the back. And if the driveway entrance to the parking space is more than 20 feet, you have to put some sort of fence or barrier to break up the 20 feet, because there's an exception to that fencing requirement for openings of 20 feet or less. And so what it ends up doing is it just causes someone to either put a fence in the middle of your access to your parking, or to ask for this relief. And so we always ask for this relief because, frankly, I don't think the regulation



makes any sense. And the board kind of agrees with me, but they always approve that relief for that reason. So it's kind of, it's an odd area of relief. And so those are the two special exceptions. So I can have-- If Dave can share his screen, he could show you the plans. And, Dave, if you have any trouble with that I can share from my screen as well.

**Bloom:** I can take care of it, just give me one second. Right, my name is Dave Bloom, as Marty mentioned. I'm with District Architecture. This development is very similar to the development that you might remember from a few months ago at the adjacent property. This is 2232 40th Street. It's an existing four-unit building, two stories. And we are proposing to increase it to six units with a third floor or, say, partial third floor addition, which would maximize the FAR. I'll go to the floor plans first, and maybe go back to the site plan. So in the cellar there would be two units, back to back. 40th Street is at the bottom of the page. The alley is at the back of the page. There's a side yard at the left side, and then a shared party wall at the right. So there's a unit in the front, a unit in the back. Each of these has a private entrance. Entrance at the front for the front unit, entrance at the back to the back unit. At the first floor, it's a relatively similar layout unit at the front, with the front door unit at the back with the back door. But along the side yard there's a shared entrance that gets you inside, up the stairs, that takes you to both of the units at the second floor. So you can see the second floor here. You get to the top of the stairs. Unit at the front, unit at the back. The unit at the front is a duplex, so it goes up to the partial third floor, which you see here with two bedrooms. I'll quickly go back to the site plan. At the bottom you can see the existing building. The footprint doesn't change very much. There's sort of an existing wood frame addition that we will be removing, but essentially replacing in the same spot. We'll have four parking spaces. The side yard will be used with a new lead walk that gets you from 40th Street to the alley, to the parking, and to the side entrance. Then I think we should have some elevations here. Yeah. So here you see on the left the front elevation. There is a ramp up to the first floor door. That's a code requirement. The first floor is accessible units, and then you can see this is the existing mansard roof, and behind that you see the partial third floor. To the right you see the side elevation looking from the side yard. Here's the common door that gets you up to the second floor units. And then going to the rear elevation, this is where you see the new addition. The first floor unit, like at the front, has a ramp up to it for accessibility code reasons. And that is the design.

**Sullivan:** Thanks, Dave. I'll just add one thing about the density of this. It's a 40% lot occupancy is the max lot occupancy, even though this is an apartment zone. So we're within the 40%. There's an 8-foot side yard requirement on the side, on the one side. And we have 8-and-a-half feet. And the FAR is pretty low, it's just 0.9 for this zone. So that's it. Thanks.

**Blumenthal:** Commissioner Howie, you have your hand up.

**Howie:** So I just wanted to touch base about the attempts you've made to contact the neighbors at 2228. Only because with this side entrance, and I just recall the pushback and concern from the neighbors at 2240 with the side entrance. I just want to make sure that, like, or ask what attempts have been made to talk to the neighbors at 2228?

**Sullivan:** Dave, do you have information on that? Or is Mr. Railan here?

**Bloom:** I don't have information on that. I thought that he might be here though.

**Blumenthal:** He was here.

**Railan:** Yes, I'm here.

**Howie:** So this is Commissioner Howie. What methods have you used to try and contact the owners of the adjacent property?

**Railan:** I'm Mr. Railan's son, actually. I'm not Mr. Railan. He's out of town, so I was just logging in to see the process. I'd have to ask him. He's out of town at the moment.

**Sullivan:** I know I talked to Sarah in my office about this, and she had information on this, so I'm going to check with her real quick while this is going on. Because she had gotten information directly from Mr. Railan, and I'm sorry I don't have that answer ready for you. But I can get it for you.

**Howie:** Yeah, I'm just asking just because, you know, the amount of concern on the other side of the building with their adjacent neighbors, and I just want to make sure that the adjacent neighbors to this project have been made aware that the side entrance will be there. And I get that sometimes they might be absent, and there's no, you've tried everything you can. But I first need to get the sense that you guys have tried everything before we say they're non responsive.

**Sullivan:** Right.

**Blumenthal:** Do we know the time frame on this? Do we need to rule tonight?

**Sullivan:** There is a hearing date.

**Blumenthal:** When is the hearing date?

**Sullivan:** May 22nd.

**Blumenthal:** Oh, so we could deal with it next month if you can't get an answer, right?

**Sullivan:** Yeah, I assume you have a May meeting, right?

**Blumenthal:** Uh-huh, May 9th.

**Sullivan:** Yeah, we have time. We have room.

**Blumenthal:** Because I think that we would be uncomfortable not checking with the neighbor,

given the previous experience.

**Sullivan:** Yeah, I understand. That was, I will say, that was a unique experience for me. I've never had anybody concerned about the side entrance next to them, but I understand. It was a big deal for them last time.

**Howie:** This is Commissioner Howie. I understand that, yes, that might have been a unique situation. But I just, in general, we tend to defer to the more adjacent property owners. And so right now I don't even know if they're aware. I don't know if you could share like email correspondences, or letters, like registered letters that were sent. Or attempts to like knock on the door? That would make me feel more comfortable, and I think the commissioners, other commissioners, more comfortable with making an opinion without hearing from them directly.

**Sullivan:** Yeah, no, that's perfectly reasonable, and I'm glad we have the room to do that. And I'm sorry that it would take another agenda item, but I don't have that answer now. If I can get that answer before the end of your meeting, maybe you'll be okay going forward. But otherwise we're perfectly fine waiting till next month, too. And then we'll, you know, make sure we make as much effort as possible to notify them.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, well that will be the plan then. If you hear something before the end of the meeting, let us know. If not, you're first up on the agenda next month.

**Sullivan:** Great, thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you, and could you clear the screen? Thank you so much.

## **Grant Request: Glover Park Day [0:29:27]**

**Blumenthal:** All right, next we have a grant request from Glover Park Day. That would be Cheri Meyer.

**Lane:** Can I say something before?

**Blumenthal:** Yes, Melissa, please introduce it.

**Lane:** Cheri Meyer is my co-chair for Glover Park Day. And being the other co-chair, I'm going to recuse from this vote. And Cheri is now on, and she will make the ask.

**Meyer:** Thank you very much. First off, I hope all of you know about Glover Park Day. We are about to have our 33rd Glover Park Day this year. It will be celebrated on June 1st. It's a wonderful community day. It brings together all of our neighbors, businesses, crafters, musicians. It's just a wonderful opportunity for our neighbors to get together and see each other. Now, as many of you know, prices have increased over the years, and some of our businesses

have a few more challenges. So I'm formally requesting a \$2,500 grant from the ANC to help support and offset some of the chair rentals and some of the other concession type items that we need to put on the day.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, and Kevin Lavezzo, Commissioner Lavezzo, we're cleared on this one, correct? With OANC?

**Lavezzo:** I believe so, yes. We haven't received any negative feedback from them.

**Blumenthal:** No, I think I got an approval. I think so.

**Lane:** Yes, we did get an approval.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, all right. Just wanted to check on that. This is a new process for us. The Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission has to approve all of our grants before we approve them.

**Meyer:** Okay.

**Blumenthal:** So this one's been approved. All right, I move that we make a grant for \$2,500 to offset the costs of tables, chair and stage rental.

**Howie:** I will second.

**Blumenthal:** Commissioner Carroll seconds. Everybody seconds. All in favor? Okay, motion carries 5-0-1, one abstention. Thank you, Cheri.

**Meyer:** Wonderful, thank you. We hope to see you there.

**Blumenthal:** Okay.

**Howie:** Thank you, Cheri, Melissa, for being involved in putting this on.

**Meyer:** It's our pleasure, thank you.

## **Letter of Support for Glover Park Day Permit [0:31:38]**

**Blumenthal:** Great. And now still related to Glover Park Day, we need to sign off on having a permit. Melissa?

**Lane:** Pat Clark has her hand up.

**Blumenthal:** Oh, sorry. Pat, please speak.

**Clark:** I wanted to ask, just-- As you know, we're trying to redo ours, and we have questions, technical questions. Who do we ask?

**Blumenthal:** You should ask me.

**Clark:** Okay, all right. Thanks.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, all right. This is just for everybody else. Glover Park Village, which Pat is the president of, wanted to apply for a grant. But the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions did not like their proposal. They didn't think it served enough people. So we are working with Glover Park Village to get the grant correct, and also working with the Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission to understand that Glover Park Village serves every senior resident in the greater Glover Park area, which ought to be enough people. But we will figure it out, hopefully for next month.

**Clark:** Thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Okay. Okay, now the permit. Melissa, you want to take that?

**Lane:** Yes, as part of the permit process, one of the requirements is a letter of support from the ANC. So as we have done in previous years, we have drafted a letter to the Department of Parks and Recreation supporting the event. And so I would like to make a motion to approve this letter to the Department of Parks and Recreation for the support of Glover Park Day.

**Lavezzo:** Second.

**Howie:** I'll second.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, everybody seconded. All in favor?

**Lane:** I think I can vote.

**Blumenthal:** Yes, you can vote, Melissa. Motion carries 6-0. And Commissioner Lane, you'll take charge with getting that letter out?

**Lane:** Yes.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, thank you.

## **Resolution regarding the Initiative Amendment Act of 2023 [0:33:40]**

**Blumenthal:** Okay, we now have a letter regarding the Initiative Amendment Act of 2023.

Commissioner Lavezzo, do you want to talk about that, or do you want me to?

**Lavezzo:** I can talk about it.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, great.

**Lavezzo:** So in September, 2023, there was a bill given to the city council called the Initiative Amendment Act, and what this would do is change the language of the law that governs the ability of DC residents to get initiatives on the ballot. And it would do this by changing the language for appropriations, and basically say that if there is an appropriation attached to the initiative, that it wouldn't be able to be put on the ballot. There is some ambiguity as to what level of appropriation, or is it any appropriation? An appropriation could be copies, or paper, or time. The act doesn't give any good information on what they would consider an appropriation, or if there is a limit to appropriation. So in response to this -- and I apologize, I thought I had it up -- Chairman Blumenthal has drafted a letter to the city council requesting that they not pass it, because it threatens our ability to get initiatives on the ballot, which is part of the Home Rule Act of 1973. There's not much more to it than that. There is a threat against our rights as voters in the democratic process, and this letter seeks to push back against that.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you very much

**Lavezzo:** You're welcome.

**Blumenthal:** Any questions from anybody about this? Okay, then I move that we approve the letter.

**Lavezzo:** Second.

**Blumenthal:** Commissioner Lane has seconded. All in favor of approving the letter? Motion carries 6-0. Thank you very much.

## **Letter addressing proposed cuts to early childhood education [0:35:45]**

**Blumenthal:** Commissioner Bergmann, the letter regarding early childhood education?

**Bergmann:** Yes, and I don't think it's been posted to the website, but I will give a brief description. It's been circulated to the commissioners. As background for the few folks who are here, and for the transcript, this is a difficult budgetary season for the District. I think that was something that was predicted for previous cycles, and I think this cycle is sort of upon us, difficult choices have to be made in part because of some of the structural rules that have been imposed on the District by Congress creating certain requirements around reserves that have to be refilled. And one of the things that the Mayor has proposed in her budget proposal, amongst

other cuts, some of which I think may be necessary at some level, is a pretty drastic, dramatic, and I think unexpected cut to early childhood education, to OSSE's budget. Which would specifically amongst other things slash the Early Childhood Educator Pay Equity Fund, which is a sort of leading, you know, first in the nation kind of program that tries to create some parity between the pay for early childhood teachers and K through 12 teachers, which is pretty important given the simultaneous push to raise the requirements for those roles, the education requirements for those roles. And to depend upon those folks in private centers to help deliver the early childhood programs that the District has invested money in so that Pre-K3, Pre-K4 Program, which as our letter lays out, is something that really sets the District apart from its neighbors. One of the big concerns obviously is people fleeing the District, you know, the issues with Downtown. Universal Pre-K is something that keeps people in the District and draws people to the District. It's \$25,000 a year per child that families are saving if they live in DC. And they do not save that money if they live outside of DC. That's a major selling point for DC. And these cuts wouldn't necessarily threaten the existing parts of the program, but it would threaten expansion efforts. It would certainly threaten the budgets and the kind of financial standing of service providers like CommuniKids, which have structured their entire model around this program. Around both the money for per-pupil funding for early, for Pre-K3 and Pre-K4, but also the Pay Equity Funding, which has elevated teacher salaries. And you can imagine what would happen, how disruptive it would be if they suddenly had to reduce salaries by, I think in some cases, like \$15,000 to \$25,000 for some of these teachers. So this letter just, you know, outlines our concerns and urges the council to reject this cut, and consider other ways to reach the same goals that don't do so by-- I think the stat that's in the letter, it's that about half of the savings are derived from these cuts, which doesn't make a lot of sense. So I would ask for a second in support of the letter and for its passage.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you very much, Commissioner Bergmann. We have a motion on the floor with a second. Is there any discussion? Okay, we'll take a vote. All in favor of sending the letter? Great, motion carries 6-0.

**Speaker:** Can I just ask one question please, Jackie?

**Blumenthal:** Sure.

**Speaker:** On that letter of support, is Councilmember Frumin behind that, and co-signing that with you? Or is there some--

**Blumenthal:** We don't do things that way. We do our own letter. And he does his own thing.

**Speaker:** Oh, okay. Understood. Okay, good. Thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Okay? You're welcome. And Commissioner Bergmann, can you take responsibility for getting the letter to the people? Thank you very much.

**Bergmann:** Will do.

## Updates And Information [0:40:24]

**Blumenthal:** Okay, so we're now at updates. We have one update. The Metropolitan Police Department does a walkthrough in the community in their Police Service Area. And Police Service Area 204, which includes us, we'll have a community walk to identify concerns and problems, and to discuss hyper-local policing issues. It'll happen Wednesday, April 17th, at 6:30 p.m., starting at Guy Mason Rec Center. So anybody who wants to spend some time with the police walking through, not just our neighborhood, but south of-- I'm confused. But through the 204 policing area, which includes a lot of Woodley Park as well as Glover Park can meet there at 6:30 on the 17th. Does anybody else have any update or information they want to share? Other than Matthew, who I will get to in one second. Commissioner Howie?

**Howie:** I just, I mean, I know it's a limited number of people here. But if you can just spread the word to register your kids for Stoddert enrollment and/or Hardy enrollment, now is enrollment season. And the sooner that the school knows how many kids are coming, the better that they can plan for the upcoming school year. So please register your kids for school, or share with your neighbors that registration is open. And you do not need to have your doctor's health record or physical done to register. You can just register and get that doctor's physical done later, at a later date.

## Open Forum [0:42:08]

### Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) [0:42:08]

**Blumenthal:** Okay, so open forum. We'll start with Matthew.

**Barclay:** Hello, everyone. My name is Matthew, I'm with the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services. Excuse me. I'll put my contact information in the chat. This update is basically just budgetary, letting you know where you can find information on the Mayor's budget, Ward 3 investments, and the like. So that's [budget.dc.gov](http://budget.dc.gov). This budget addresses the confluence of post-COVID factors that we are facing. Slower revenue growth, end of federal stimulus funding, significantly higher operating costs, including an additional 200 million in WMATA funding, and the impacts of remote work environment on the downtown and the whole city. The budget also makes significant investments in people and economy, and focuses on three pillars of long-term growth: public schools, public safety, and the downtown. We must be smart, and we must be strategic. First we focused on maintaining and enhancing the core services of the city government, and preserving programs and services that protect the health and safety of our community. We prioritize programs with track records of success that focus on equity. And for the District's long-term, excuse me, long-term stability we worked to reset spending so that it aligns with our resources. And that's all I have for tonight. So thank you



guys.

**Blumenthal:** Great, thank you very much, Matthew. Any questions for Matthew Barclay from the commission? Go ahead, Commissioner Carroll.

**Carroll:** My question was, within the budget is there an allocation for the arena downtown?

**Barclay:** I believe that is in the budget.

**Blumenthal:** I think it's in the capital budget.

**Barclay:** Capital budget. I believe it's 515 million.

**Blumenthal:** Yeah, but that's different from this budget.

**Barclay:** Oh, yeah. I can get back to you, Kevin, on the more specifics of that. Thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Any other questions? Okay, thank you very much, Matthew. We appreciate you coming to our meetings all the time.

**Barclay:** You're very welcome. Have a good day.

## **Administrative Matters [0:44:36]**

**Blumenthal:** Okay, we are going to approve the March minutes. But we are also going to approve minutes all the way back into 2023, because we have been informed by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions that the minutes we had previously submitted, which were just word-for-word transcripts of the meetings, were insufficient to fulfill the requirements of minutes. And they have been withholding our allotments as a consequence, although they didn't tell us why until recently. Melissa Lane, Commissioner Lane as secretary has gone back and rewritten 16 months, eight months, I can't remember. A lot of months of minutes.

**Lane:** A lot of months.

**Blumenthal:** Which I have read all of which today, and I commend her effort on doing this. But we will now get into compliance by approving all those minutes, including last month's minutes. So I make a motion that we approve all the minutes back to-- Melissa, just give me a date. When was the first one that you did?

**Lane:** March, 2023 through March, 2024.

**Blumenthal:** March, 2023 through March, 2024. I make that motion.

**Howie:** I'll second.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you, Commissioner Howie. All in favor of approving all those minutes? Thank you. Motion carries 6-0. Commissioner Lavezzo, do you want to talk about finances?

**Lavezzo:** Sure do. It continues to be a struggle with Wells Fargo. They are not playing along, unfortunately. We haven't been able to get statements on time, and as a result I don't have a treasurer's report for last month. Nor do I have the quarter 2 financial report. So we are doing everything we can to get that in compliance, and hopefully next month I'll be able to give everyone an update on the last several months of ANC 3B's finances.

**Blumenthal:** I will comment that we finally passed the security fund compliance thing. So we're all-- Kevin and I are bonded in case anything goes wrong. And Commissioner Lavezzo is also now finally an approved signer on our account, which took four months to get done. So we are, you know, by the time we finish this it'll be time to do a whole 'nother round, so it's very frustrating. But we are trying very hard to be in compliance with everybody.

**Lavezzo:** I hope to actually be the treasurer before November this year.

**Blumenthal:** Right, before you get voted out again, or voted in again, or whatever you're doing.

**Bergmann:** Commissioner Lavezzo, I guess one question that you could pass along to OANC. It's my understanding that there had previously been an expectation that we had to use a bank within the ANC, and that's why we have Wells Fargo as the bank. But there are banks that other ANCs use that are not as problematic that are nearby. And so maybe we could confirm whether that's still OANC's interpretation.

**Blumenthal:** Wells Fargo is the bank for the District's cash. You would think that they would understand what they're doing.

**Lavezzo:** Yeah. And there there was a question in the chat. "What can explain the non response?" And unfortunately we don't have a good answer for that. Commissioner Blumenthal and I have been reaching out to Wells Fargo for months now for updates for changes for everything we need. And Wells Fargo, the way they operate, is different than other banks for government accounts. Where, as I understand it, we can't access an online portal to get our statements. We have to send an email to a person. The person has to be there and see the email, and then email it back to us, which is very inefficient. Other banks don't operate that way with government accounts.

**Lane:** And this happened last year as well with Commissioner Bergmann.

**Bergmann:** Yes, yeah. Yeah, it's really frustrating. And I had many calls with them, talking about why can't we have a portal. PNC Bank has a portal for 3B, so it's not a federal requirement for

government banks, which is how they framed it.

**Lavezzo:** It's their preference.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, so our next meeting will be Thursday, May 9th. And I guess before we adjourn I should check with Marty Sullivan to see if he wants to say or add anything at this meeting.

**Sullivan:** I just sent an email to Commissioner Howie. So the level of outreach was Mr. Railan knocked on their doors. And the one answer he got was from somebody that said, "I'm not interested." And it's tenants, I think it's four tenants, I'm not sure. I can't find the owner's address. For some reason it's not in Property Quest. All four condo units are owned by one person, so we did send notice to that address, to owner, because we don't have Ms. Leftwich, the owner, we don't have her address. But in any event, we're fine waiting, if you want to just wait to see if somebody speaks up.

**Howie:** Is there a property management company that manages the four tenants? Maybe they have a contact info for the owner?

**Sullivan:** Nothing I see. I mean, the only place I know to look for information, I usually look at [propertyquest.dc.gov](http://propertyquest.dc.gov) first when I'm looking at a property. And the owner name and address is always there. I don't know why it's not there in this case. And then I go to real property tax assessment records sometimes because the owner address is usually there. And it's not there either. So if I can find the address we'll send a separate letter.

**Carol:** Scout? If you have an access to Scout try the Scout portal, it might be there. Or I can look on Spokeo. That's common information.

**Blumenthal:** All right, Carol, we'll figure it out.

**Carol:** Okay.

**Blumenthal:** Thank you

**Carol:** But I am on the side of the property owner needs to at least be aware.

**Blumenthal:** Right, that's what we're trying to do.

**Carol:** Exactly.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, so I guess what we'll have to do is wait till next month and make a decision after there's been a little bit more clarity about outreach to the owner.

**Sullivan:** Okay. Great, okay. Thank you.

**Blumenthal:** Okay. All right, thank you very much. Therefore I make a motion that we adjourn the meeting.

**Carroll:** I just wanted to take one second and thank Melissa for all her work on the minutes.

**Lane:** Thank you.

**Lavezzo:** Absolutely. It was a Herculean effort to read that many transcripts and get that many minutes done. We truly appreciate your efforts.

**Lane:** I was only annoyed a lot.

**Speaker:** And hope you don't have carpal tunnel. Sorry about that.

**Blumenthal:** Okay, on that note we have a second motion. All in favor of adjourning? All right, motion carries 6-0. Thank you, everyone. Thank you, everyone, who participated in the meeting. See you next month. Bye.