

Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of February 8, 2024

Edited for Clarity and Readability

Timestamp	Agenda Items
0:00:00	Call to Order
0:01:00	Approval of Agenda
0:01:30	Police Report
	Old Business (Not discussed)
	New Business (Not discussed)
0:17:52	Updates and Information
0:20:54	Open Forum
0:21:12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)
0:25:12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other Community Concerns
0:28:51	Administrative Matters

Call to Order [0:00:00]

Blumenthal: Okay, good evening, everyone. This is the ANC 3B February 8th meeting. I'd appreciate it if everybody kept their microphones muted, and their cameras off, unless they're speaking. That would be great. We have tonight, all of our commissioners are here. So we have five commissioners. That constitutes more than a quorum. A totality, excuse me, six commissioners are here. Sorry, I can't count.

Approval of Agenda [0:01:00]

Blumenthal: The first order is to approve the agenda, and before we approve the agenda I

should note that our one agenda item has been postponed till March, so there will be no discussion of the zoning variance request tonight.

Carroll: I move the agenda as amended.

Blumenthal: A second? Melissa, thank you. All in favor of approving the agenda? Motion carries 6-0. Thank you.

Police Report [0:01:30]

Blumenthal: Lieutenant Johnson, please turn on your mic and your camera, and let us hear from you.

Johnson: Hello. Good evening, everyone. Can you hear me, Ma'am?

Blumenthal: Yes.

Johnson: Thank you, Ms. Blumenthal. This is Lieutenant Paul Johnson from the Second District, PSA 204, and I represent the managed area of ANC 3B, which includes Glover Park. All right, I'll give the crime stats from, we're going to compare last year's crime from 2023 to 2024, a 30-day snapshot of the same time last year. We only had 15 reportable crimes this year. We had 15 reportable crimes in 2023. We had no homicides this year, none last year. We had sex abuse, none in 2023 and none in 2024 so far in this 30-day snapshot. We had one ADW gun, which occurred in the 3900 block of Davis Place Northwest, and that was an assault involving a gun. A gun was pointed at someone, and the suspect was arrested. It was an assault between friends. It wasn't any threat to the public. We had one robbery of an establishment, and that was at the 2400 block of 37th Street Northwest. That was the Glover Park Market. I'm glad to report that that was closed, closed by arrest. And the suspect was charged, arrested. He's being held. He was charged with I believe four robberies, and they have five more pending, so probably a total of nine, nine robberies. He'll be charged with three at the same Glover Park Market, one of the gas station, and the rest would be other locations. The FBI was involved in the charging document, and he was charged in District Court. So he's held at least until his trial, and that should be a while. DC's backed up. Burglaries, we have none this 30-day period, and we had none last year in 2023. Theft from autos are down. We had five to report last year in 2023. We had three this year, 2024. And thefts are also down. We had nine in 2023. This year we have six. And motor vehicle thefts, we have four to report, as opposed to zero in 2023. So that's the 15 crimes we have to report for this reporting period. We can take questions, Ms. Blumenthal, if you have anybody?

Blumenthal: Commissioners, any questions? Commissioner Carroll?

Carroll: My question is what is the period? Is it the month of January? Is that what we're talking

about?

Johnson: We're talking about the 30-day period from, like, today is the 8th? Yes, so from January 8th to February 8th in 2023 compared to January 8th to February 8th, 2024. Same 30-day snapshot.

Carroll: Okay, because two things. Does motor vehicle include motorcycles?

Johnson: Yes, and most of those thefts were like mopeds, also mopeds. Yes, sir.

Carroll: Okay, what about attempted motor vehicle theft?

Johnson: No, only the actual ones. Not attempts.

Carroll: Okay, because there was a-- There was a woman who lives in the building who had her Hyundai, they were trying to take it, but they were unsuccessful. They were chased away by neighbors in the last month or so. I know that a report was filed.

Johnson: Yeah, if it was damaged that might show as a theft from auto if they broke a window or damaged the ignition. If it wasn't taken, it'd be probably a damage to property, destruction of property, attempted theft.

Carroll: Okay, thank you.

Blumenthal: Any other questions from commissioners? Okay, Victoria, please.

Zuckerman: I noticed that you didn't report the carjacking that occurred at Idaho and Cathedral Avenue.

Johnson: Idaho and Cathedral? And when did that occur?

Zuckerman: On January 13th, three armed men carjacked-- I have a case, a report number. I have everything.

Johnson: I don't have that on my report. This is Idaho and Cathedral, is that part of ANC 3B?

Zuckerman: Yes.

Johnson: Yeah. I've got Captain Haskis on here, also. I didn't see that on our--

Blumenthal: It's actually 3A now, I think.

Zuckerman: 3A?

Johnson: Yeah, we got rezoned recently. That might be a little, that might be 3A, yeah.

Zuckerman: Well, can we talk about it, nonetheless? Since it's right across the street from where we live? Our concern is, or question as to what's happened. Has there been any followup? Has anybody been-- Was the car recovered? Was anybody arrested? How can we find out? Let me just report one thing to the commissioners. When I got notice of this, one of the first things I did was call the Second District and ask about it. The man who answered the phone put me on hold, came back, "Sorry, I don't see anything." While he had me on hold I was able to find a case number. I gave him the case number, put me on hold again. Came back later, "Sorry, can't find anything. You know we have so many of them in this city, I just can't find it." I'm thinking, "Really? This happened in the Second District." So that's as much information as we got, was this little notification. Three armed men. Four men were involved, three armed. We happened to know from neighbors in the building where it happened, it affected a building called the Marlin, which is actually at the corner of Cathedral, Idaho, and 39th Street. It was a Hispanic couple, a man waiting for his wife. They didn't speak much English. They didn't hurt the guy, thank God. But they did take his car. So how can we get follow-up information about this?

Johnson: Well, I can look it up, and I can email Ms. Blumenthal, and maybe she can forward it to you. But I don't have any information on it right now.

Blumenthal: Victoria, if you send me the case number and the details, I'll email Lieutenant Johnson and play the middleman on this. Okay?

Zuckerman: Okay, I would really appreciate it because all of us want to know the followup. We felt pretty safe in this neighborhood until that happened. And I know other neighborhoods have faced it, and I'm sure they feel the same way, that they felt safe. I think the carjackings are out of control.

Blumenthal: Captain Haskis, I see you turned on your camera. Did you have something you wanted to say?

Haskis: Yes, forgive me. I'm the Watch Commander this evening, so I'm going to be a little distracted all the time. But in terms of the Idaho Avenue carjacking that happened, it's still an open case. It's assigned to our carjacking task force, so the latest is it's still being actively investigated. They have a few leads. I'm hoping they will close it, because they do have leads. But as of today's date, and as of checking the report just now, it is still open.

Zuckerman: May I make a suggestion that somehow the neighbors know the status of this case? Especially if you're able to close it, it would make all of us feel a lot better.

Haskis: I assure you, once it is closed the Second District and either myself or Lieutenant Johnson will let the ANC know.

Blumenthal: Great, and we will spread the word at that point.

Zuckerman: Thank you very much you.

Haskis: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Captain. Any other questions for Lieutenant Johnson, or about the police report? Yes, Commissioner Bergmann?

Bergmann: Yeah, I guess this is less of a question, but more of a flag. I thought that the reason why you might not have mentioned it was because of the difference between the police service areas and the ANC boundaries. That doesn't appear to be the case. It appears this area is in the same PSA as most of the ANC, but I do want to flag that part of the ANC isn't PSA 205. Most of it is in PSA 204, but we-- I think we don't always get reporting about crime that happens in 205, that's near us, or in our ANC. And so just generally I think, you know, these boundaries-- We are a very, you know, some ANCs are quite big, and that it makes sense to not talk about things that happen in neighboring agencies. But that's really not the case for an ANC like ours, which is pretty condensed, and these things are very close to us in other ANCs. So just going forward, if you make a note of that, you know, PSA 205 is part of ANC 3B too, part of it.

Johnson: Okay.

Blumenthal: Yeah, Lieutenant Johnson, we had you narrow it down before to Glover Park because you were telling us about things that were happening far afield. So now, I guess, we'll have to figure out what the edges of the, what the boundaries of your report should be.

Johnson: Well, the map is already set. If you go to DC Crime Cards and you put ANC 3B, and you'll see the 15 crimes that are reported on. And that didn't, doesn't show up on ANC 3B. So it may be another ANC that he's talking about, but we covered ANC 3B-- I talked about what's in ANC 3B, our boundaries.

Blumenthal: You have our changed--

Johnson: I'm sorry?

Blumenthal: You have our changed boundaries? Because our boundaries changed this year.

Johnson: Yes, it should be updated on the Crime Cards if you look at it.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Bergmann: No, that makes sense. But I guess this crime did occur right outside the boundaries. Just to flag that--

Johnson: Right. Yeah, it's another ANC, but I see your point.

Carroll: Could I ask you to repeat where we could go look for that?

Johnson: DC Crime Cards. If you put in DC Crime Cards in your browser, it should come up. And you can put in which ANC, which PSA. For the whole city, if you want.

Carroll: Thank you.

Haskis: A good point is that-- This Captain Haskis here, if I can just interject very, very briefly, is that Lieutenant Johnson is the Police Service Area 204 lieutenant. And according to our way that carjacking is classified, it is classified in Police Service Area 205, which is a different lieutenant. So unfortunately the way ANCs translate to our Police Service Areas aren't always matched up very well. So we'll have to work on that some more. But unfortunately our databases aren't structured for the ANCs very easily. It takes a bit of, especially with this one, which is also on a border. But we'll get you that information nonetheless when it's closed.

Blumenthal: Thank you. Victoria, you have one more thing to say?

Zuckerman: I just have one other thing on my gripe about Cathedral Avenue, and that is the speeding is just outrageous. You could stand there with a speed radar gun and just-- It's so dangerous for us crossing the street from our 4100 Cathedral Avenue. And I know the police have come. They brought a radar gun. We are able to show them even then. We've gotta find a solution for this speeding. I don't know what it is, but surely in this day and age, with technology, we can figure out something.

Blumenthal: We hear you, Victoria. We've done as much as we can so far, but if something new comes up--

Johnson: Yeah, we'll continue to enforce traffic there.

Zuckerman: Thank you. Thank you so much.

Johnson: All right. 41 and Cathedral, we've got you.

Blumenthal: Commissioner Carroll?

Carroll: I will say in regard to that, I actually sent a note to our DDOT representative, Pineiro. Christopher, I believe his name was?

Blumenthal: Yes, Christian. Christian Pineiro.

Carroll: Christian. And he redirected me to another database and said to put in a request there. So I intend to do that for both Cathedral and for Fulton. But I have not done that as of yet. But I do intend to do it. I know that this is an issue and, you know, I watch it happen here as well.

Blumenthal: Thank you. Commissioner Lavezzo? You had your hand up?

Lavezzo: Something somewhat related, not at the ANC level, but at the city council level. I believe the city council passed either the first or the first and the second vote for a new traffic bill that'll give the city more tools to prosecute drivers that are bad drivers. I believe they will have the authority to install speed-governing devices on repeat offenders or serious offenders. And they can sue drivers who have large amounts of outstanding tickets. I don't know all of the provisions in the law. I only saw it in passing the other day, but that's definitely something to look at if you're interested in what's going on with traffic laws in DC.

Blumenthal: Thank you. That's very good information. Anything else for Lieutenant Johnson? All right, thank you. Thank you very much. Oh?

Bergmann: Can I just add one thing? Lieutenant Johnson, on Cathedral it's particularly at rush hour, because if you look at the street it's people cutting through who want to avoid Mass. that are coming, you know, cutting through Cathedral from Foxhall during those peak times. And that's when there's, you know, on Foxhall people drive too fast there, and then they turn onto Cathedral. And then they drive, they continue to drive too fast as they're cutting through. And because of the hill, it creates issues. Those times are the times when I think you might find a lot of people that will respond to just seeing a visible police presence, and also that's when kids are walking to school, so that would be appreciated.

Johnson: Yes, sir. The day and evening rush are most of the times we focus on when people are coming to and from work, and to and from school. The majority of traffic, foot and cars. Yes, sir.

Lavezzo: To kind of piggyback on that, I would flag Calvert as well. Right there at Tunlaw and Calvert is a sore spot for bad behavior. I watched a car run a red light when a school bus was stopped the other day. And I believe there was a pedestrian struck a few weeks ago at Calvert and Edmunds, so that stretch, basically from Stoddert out to Wisconsin is a bit of a sore spot. And I think it has been for some time.

Johnson: Okay. Tunlaw and Calvert. Yes, sir.

Blumenthal: All right. Thank you, Lieutenant Johnson. We appreciate your time and your effort.

Johnson: Thank you, Ms. Blumenthal. See you next month, Ma'am.

Blumenthal: We will.

Johnson: Appreciate you all. Everybody be safe.

Blumenthal: You, too.

Updates and Information [0:17:52]

Blumenthal: All right, since we don't have any old business or any new business this month, we are going to spend a little time just sharing some information. The one thing I wanted to note is that we don't spend our money that we get from the District to run our ANC. We do all the work ourselves, with a few exceptions. And the rest of the money we like to give out as grants to community organizations who are serving the broader community of Glover Park, Cathedral Heights, or Wesley Heights, which we serve. So please check our grant guidelines if you have an organization that needs some funds. We would be glad to hear from you. The grant guidelines say we only take up grants during three months of the year, but because we have a surplus of funds right now, we will be taking up money, taking up grant requests at any of our meetings. Whoever has your hand raised, just wait till we get through the information, and I'll get back to you, all right? The other thing I wanted to note is that sometime this year, or in the coming months, we will be taking up the issue of a licensed cannabis retailer in Glover Park. And I just wanted to put that on the agenda for people to think about, because we may have a short period of time in which to ask for community comment, and a vote that we have to take on whether or not we approve this place. It is located in Glover Park, on the second floor at 2428 Wisconsin Avenue. It's called Elevated Lounge, and it's been there for three years, and this is my area of responsibility, and I did not know it was there, which speaks well about how the place is handling itself. So, I will just say that much before we get into the discussion. But it will be on our agenda sometime coming up, and I just wanted to alert people to that. The other thing I wanted to raise is there's been some concern that the bus lines were going to be cut drastically due to budget issues at WMATA, that's Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. And they have met some of their budget needs, thankfully, and have said that they will pull back on their drastic bus and Metro cuts. But we don't know what the end result will be. We will be keeping our eyes on that, but at the moment it doesn't look as bad as we thought it was going to be. And that's the end of my information. Do any other commissioners have information they want to add from their SMDs, or from their knowledge?

Open Forum [0:20:54]

Blumenthal: Okay, then I will move to open forum, which is time for anybody to speak who has something to add or share with us. And whoever's got their hand-- So, Matthew, please.

Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) [0:21:12]

Barclay: Apologies. I raised my hand earlier than I needed to. Hi, everyone. Matthew Barclay, half of your MOCRs. Theo usually comes to ANC 3B, but he's at ANC 3E tonight.

Blumenthal: Could you describe what a MOCR is before you keep going?

Barclay: Absolutely. So a MOCR is the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services. What we are is, we are a liaison between community and government agencies, and the executive office. So if you have any needs or anything that you need, or if you have any like ideas that you want to share, you can always reach out to me or Theo. I'll drop both of our information in the chat. But, yeah, happy to hear about things happening in the neighborhood as well, and if there are events, please invite us. We'd be happy to come if we can. Also, we come to community meetings and give updates as to things happening in the city. So, that's what I will get to now. All right, so this week Mayor Bowser, Chairman Mendelson, and Councilmember Allen sent a letter to the WMATA board and General Manager Randy Clark, committing to pay our fair share to help close the projected operating budget deficits at WMATA. You just spoke about that, but we are committed to aligning service to better and more equitably serve Metro riders and their needs. We also oppose service cuts that will impact residents and commuters in the region that will go against our-- These cuts would go against our values of equity and lowering our environmental footprint. So just know that we're on that. Moving along, there will be a DCHR event hiring, winter hiring event, Downtown winter hiring event on February 13th. This will be at MLK Library. I believe it's all day because I don't have a time, but I'm pretty sure it's all day. So you also have to register, so if you're interested in registering for that or need more information, please email me. There'll be my info in the chat after I finish this. Moving along. This week, February 6th, Council took the first vote on the Secure DC bill. It includes many provisions from Mayor Bowser's Safer Stronger Amendment Act, and ACT Now Act from 2023. We are happy to have it passed unanimously, and we still encourage, excuse me, still encourage residents to show their support by emailing their councilmember, both Ward 3 councilmember and your at-large councilmembers, the Chair of the Judiciary Committee Pinto, Councilmember Pinto. And if you need more information on the bill and what's in it, please email me. Moving along. Applications for Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program are open at summerjobs.dc.gov. And also applications for the HBCU Public Service Program opened on February 1st and will close on February 29th. So if you are a graduating senior in UDC or Howard University, please apply. And if you need more information, please email me. The Office of State Superintendent of Education is reminding families to apply to the My School DC Lottery ahead of upcoming deadlines. Grades 9 through 12, the deadline has passed, but the application is still open until March 1st for grades PK3 through grade 8, so encourage you to do that. And that is all I have for today. Thank you all.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Matthew.

Other Community Concerns [0:25:12]

Blumenthal: Holly Pollinger? Holly?

Pollinger: Quick and easy, I wanted to just quickly ask how I would go about starting to request of the ANC that they support the budget for the villages that's coming up? I wanted to make sure that the Department of Aging and Community Living heard that, you know, Glover Park Village for example, is very anxious to not have our funding cut. But I am not prepared tonight to give you the information, and I just wanted to know if this is something that I would talk to you about, Ms. Blumenthal. Or would I write a petition to the whole ANC? Or can you just tell me how to go about doing this?

Blumenthal: This is a good way to do it, just by speaking to me right now. But while we have Matthew on the screen, maybe he could tell us a bit about the budget timing process, and where we are in that now.

Barclay: So we are in budget season, so the agencies are meeting with the Mayor and councilmembers, et cetera, are meeting with the Mayor to work through the budget. She'll be presenting her budget, I believe after March. Actually, no, I'm sorry, at the end of May. So in part, partially what will be happening as well is there's a budget engagement season, and that'll be through March through May, where residents like yourself can come to our engagement sessions, and/or email us. And we'll have like a big, you know, a bunch of data points. And we can see like where pain points are for budget. And it could potentially alter the-- Not alter, but affect where the Mayor sees budget priorities, and this public sentiment around the budget.

Blumenthal: So if the ANC were to discuss the Glover Park Village issue at our March meeting and write a letter in support of funding for that, that would be appropriate?

Barclay: I think so, yeah.

Blumenthal: Okay. All right, we'll put that on our agenda, Holly, and take it up next month.

Pollinger: Terrific, thank you so much.

Blumenthal: You're welcome. And be in touch with me, would you, please?

Pollinger: I will.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Barclay: And, you know, maybe I could potentially also advocate for ANC 3B to have the budget presented to them by DACL.

Blumenthal: Oh, by the Department of Aging? Is that what you just said?

Barclay: If you're interested.

Blumenthal: Well, the last time we had a budget presented to us it did not illuminate anything, so maybe we'll just-- I'll talk to you about that. Okay, but definitely we'll take up the issue in March.

Barclay: We can talk about expectations and how we can meet them.

Blumenthal: Okay, thank you so much. Okay. Anybody else? Anything to add?

Administrative Matters [0:28:51]

Blumenthal: All right, then we are moving on to administrative matters. We have all seen the January minutes. I move that we approve them. Second, Commissioner Bergmann. All in favor of approving the minutes? Motion carries, 6-0. Commissioner Lavezzo, our new treasurer, why don't you do the monthly financial report?

Lavezzo: Sure thing. So for January we had a starting balance of \$34,653.78. We only had one debit for \$190. And we ended the month with \$34,463.78.

Blumenthal: Okay, thank you. And we have to approve the quarterly financial report, is that correct?

Lavezzo: Yep, and I can move right into that. Bear with me one moment here. So this is for fiscal year 2024, quarter 1. It's important that we mention that that's the period this is for, for the quarterly financial report. We started quarter one with \$31,053.45. We ended with \$34,893.59. Within that we had a receipt of \$3,840.14. And we had disbursements of \$239.81.

Blumenthal: Do I have a motion to approve the quarterly report? Commissioner Howie, a second. Commissioner Bergmann. All in favor of approving the report? Motion carries 6-0. That being said, if there's nothing else to come up, I move we adjourn until Thursday, March 14th. All in favor? Motion carries, 6-0. Good night, everybody. Thank you very much for coming to our meeting.