

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



February 10, 2023

Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Frumin,

The new high school on MacArthur Boulevard (MHS) is slated to open this fall. This new school will solve problems of overcrowding but, as ANC3B has previously stated, we believe it is poorly located due to a lack of access by public transportation. At present, the school is fundamentally inaccessible from multiple in-boundary areas, including Glover Park, most of Wesley Heights, and all of Spring Valley and Cleveland Park.

WMATA's Trip Planner estimates that the quickest route in the morning will take over 50 minutes for parts of Glover Park and Wesley Heights — and that's only if the buses are running on time, which frequently is not the case. The afternoon commute home is even worse. Requiring students to attend a school they cannot access is unacceptable. MHS is not a viable option for families in the area lacking either a personal automobile, occupational flexibility, or the time to drive their high school students to MHS. For other families, the lack of adequate, dependable bus service will likely result in the Palisades area where MHS is located being overrun with cars dropping students off or picking them up, as well as cars driven by the students themselves, which will need parking spaces.

We join with other Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and communities across Ward 3 in asking you to include in the FY2024 budget and beyond sufficient funding for the creation and operation of a new bus line to serve all of our Commission areas. An example of a proposed bus route is appended to this letter. While the exact route should be modified as necessary, it is essential that the line be accessible to the parts of our neighborhoods that lack alternative public transportation means to commute to MHS. The route should operate in both directions and with short enough headways as to be functional.

Further, care should be taken to make the route as useful as possible for non-student members of our communities without unduly degrading its effectiveness for students to access MHS. Glover Park is grossly underserved by public transportation and consequently people rely on their cars, which leads to parking problems and conflict over installing protected bike lanes. A route such as the one proposed would provide our area with better access not only to schools, but also to Metro and grocery stores.

WWW.ANC3B.ORG

EMAIL: ANC3BMAIL@GMAIL.COM

3B01
N. GLOVER PARK
KEVIN LAVEZZO

3B02
E. GLOVER PARK
JACKIE BLUMENTHAL

3B03
W. GLOVER PARK
MELISSA LANE

3B04
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
J. KEVIN CARROLL

3B05
S. GLOVER PARK
GUPI HOWIE

3B06
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS
BEN BERGMANN

Whether the route is best operated by WMATA as a non-regional route or by the District as a new Circulator line will need to be determined. That said, ANC3B is hereby registering our preference for a new Circulator route. It makes sense to us that if the District's public school officials open a new school in a location not adequately served by public transportation, the District should be the agency to remedy that situation.

ANC3B also requests that you urge WMATA to increase the frequency of the D2 and the D6 bus lines during school commuting hours. Let's prepare for what we know is coming, before it surfaces as a serious problem for parents and students.

We believe that something like the bus route attached to this letter would effectively serve the needs of students within our community while providing a new and valuable transportation amenity for others, particularly residents of the underserved Glover Park area. Funding such a bus route now will eliminate the inevitable problems that lie ahead as parents, students and residents of Palisades confront the realities of a public school with minimal access except by car.

ANC3B urges you to make the creation of a new bus route to serve the Ward 3 communities within the new MacArthur high school boundaries a leading priority of your office and advocacy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jackie Blumenthal". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jackie Blumenthal
Chair, ANC3B
Serving Glover Park and Cathedral Heights

This letter was approved by a vote of 5-0 at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC3B on February 9, 2023, at which a quorum was present. (Four of the six Commissioners constitute a quorum.) By this same vote, the Commission designates the Chairman or her designee to represent ANC3B on this matter.

ATTACHMENT: MHS Bus Proposal Maps (as previously submitted to CM Frumin by Troy Kravitz)