

Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of March 9, 2023

Edited for Clarity and Readability

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02:08	Police Report
	Old Business (Not discussed)
08:09	New Business
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10:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter of Support for Lights Out DC
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Blumenthal: Ben, I thought maybe you should transfer the address and connection to Melissa, since she's the secretary, and that would make more sense.

Bergmann: Oh, to the--

Blumenthal: For the transcribing thing.

Bergmann: Sure, yeah, yeah. I can do that. I'll connect you guys today.

Lane: Okay, thanks. He's got the January transcript, right?

Bergmann: Yeah. Well, I think so. Now I can't remember. We authorized it. I actually don't know if I sent the January recording to him.

Lane: I can send it. We've got it.

Blumenthal: Okay, Gupi's here. We're gonna go live.

Lane: I'm gonna let everybody in. Not that there's a lot, but--

Blumenthal: Well, let me know when they're in.

Lane: Everybody's in. This is it.

Howie: Can anybody hear me talking?

Blumenthal: Yes.

Howie: Okay. I'm in a hotel in northeast Pennsylvania, so just bear with me.

Blumenthal: Where are you?

Howie: The Poconos, because the kids had off school today and tomorrow, so we're just skiing and snowboarding.

Blumenthal: Okay, all right. All right, we are starting our March ANC 3B meeting. We have a quorum. Everybody, all of the commissioners are here.

Approval of Agenda [1:24]

Blumenthal: So as the first order of business we need to approve the agenda, and I need to add something to the agenda first. And we're adding a resolution in support of Lights Out DC, which has asked all the ANCs to weigh in on, and we'll talk more about that when we get to it. But with that added, I'd like to move that we approve the agenda. Second? Okay. Melissa seconded it. All in favor, raise your hand. Okay, everybody raised their hand. I'm speaking for the recording and the transcription so that we can get everything clear.

Police Report [2:08]

Blumenthal: We'll start with Lieutenant Johnson, who is here to do the police report. Welcome, Lieutenant Johnson. I hope all is well.

Johnson: Hello. Everything is well. Can you hear me?

Blumenthal: Yes, we can.

Johnson: Okay, I'm gonna start with the police report. I'll compare the 30-day report from these 30 days this period to the 30 days of last year this period.

Blumenthal: That'd be great, thank you.

Johnson: Last year we had one robbery. This year we have zero for this 30-day period. Last year, burglaries, we had two. This period we had one. Theft from autos we had one, this month we had eight. Thefts, we had seven, and this month we had six.

Speaker: Hello?

Johnson: Hello, can you hear me?

Blumenthal: Yes.

Johnson: Stolen autos we had one this time last year, but this month we had zero. So total crimes were 12 this time last year. This month we had 15, so that went up by three crimes.

Blumenthal: Everybody who's on this, please mute your mics. Only the person speaking should be speaking. And we'll recognize you. You should raise your hand when it's time to, if you'd like to speak when it's time. Sorry, Lieutenant Johnson.

Johnson: I was saying that reported crimes went up from 12 to 15, up by three. And that was driven by the large rise in theft from autos, from one to eight. Most crimes went down, like the thefts went down by one. Theft from autos went down to zero. The burglaries went down from two to one, and robberies went from one to zero. So property crimes went up, the theft from autos. Also, I wanted to report that the Georgetown Valet cleaners that were broken into twice, we made an arrest. --with his arrest. So they put together, you know, with evidence, able to close seven other cases with this guy's arrest.

Blumenthal: So this guy broke into that same place twice?

Johnson: Yes, the same location twice. And other locations within our District.

Blumenthal: Well, congratulations.

Johnson: Yeah, the detectives also did a great job getting evidence and Witnesses, and they got a warrant for him and locked him up at his residence where he lives.

Blumenthal: Well, that's well done. We appreciate the effort.

Johnson: Yeah, it was huge. That's the end of my report. Anybody have any questions or concerns?

Blumenthal: Any commissioners have questions for Lieutenant Johnson?

Howie: Lieutenant Johnson, is there any updates on the kid, with the middle school kid that was jumped on Benton and I forget the cross street. I only ask because other parents have been asking, and there's still like rumors going around that a gun was involved. I don't know if there's any more updates to that incident that occurred.

Johnson: No updates so far, and it still hasn't been confronted if there was a gun involved in that. That's still unconfirmed about the gun being involved, but he was robbed by other juveniles his age coming from school.

Blumenthal: Kevin L., you had a question?

Lavezzo: Yeah, Lieutenant Johnson, with the eight auto thefts, what pattern are you seeing within that? Is it still mostly airbags and catalytic converters, or are we seeing a change?

Johnson: Good question, it's a big change. Only one airbag was stolen this time. But four of the theft from autos involved unlocked doors, so please lock your doors when you go into a store. You might run in real quick and forget, but please secure and lock your vehicle before you go in the house or going into a store. So some of those probably shouldn't have been on our report.

Howie: Last time you had mentioned that the airbags and catalytic converters seem to be focused more so on like W Street. Are these thefts from unlocked autos like in a certain location, or near the commercial strip, or in the neighborhood?

Johnson: No, we had two repeat locations on Wisconsin Avenue, near the Whole Foods there, yeah, where the businesses are. Unlocked doors.

Blumenthal: Any questions from participants? You could raise your hand or just speak out.

Speaker: Which Whole Foods?

Johnson: The Whole Foods, the 2400 block of Wisconsin, is that the Whole Foods right there?

Lane: The one next to Guy Mason.

Johnson: Right.

Speaker: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Anybody else have a comment or question? Well, thank you very much, Lieutenant Johnson. I appreciate it.

Johnson: All right. Oh, one more thing. We're getting a new commander, Commander Bedlion is being reassigned, and we'll have Commander John Branch beginning on Monday, this coming Monday. Where's my calendar? What's Monday's date?

Blumenthal: Monday is the 13th.

Lane: The 13th.

Johnson: 13th?

Lane: Yeah.

Johnson: Yeah, the 13th.

Howie: Was Commander Bentley the lady that spoke at our last meeting?

Blumenthal: No, Bedlion.

Johnson: Bedlion, he's a male. Duncan Bedlion. He's been transferred to another, to Homeland Security Bureau.

Blumenthal: Oh.

Johnson: Yeah, we're going to miss him.

Lane: Yeah, he was good.

Lane: Where is Commander Branch from?

Johnson: Right now he's currently the commander of the Seventh District. So he has a lot of time on his [xx]. I think he has more than 30 years on the department. I hear good things, but I've never met him, but I hear good things about this guy, so hopefully he'll be okay.

Blumenthal: Great. All right. Well, thank you very much, Lieutenant Johnson, we appreciate your time.

Johnson: Okay, thank you.

Blumenthal: Okay, good night.

Johnson: Good night.

New Business [8:09]

Letter of Support for Permit for Glover Park Day (June 3, 2023) [8:09]

Blumenthal: We have no old business, but we do have two issues of new business. The first one is a letter of support for the permit for Glover Park Day. Glover Park Day is an annual community fair that we hold at Guy Mason Park, and it's always the first Saturday in June, which will be June 3rd. And the department of whatever it is-- Somebody's recording it.

Lane: Parks and Recreation. Department of Parks and Recreation.

Blumenthal: Parks and Recreation, I should know that, is requiring a permit for us to hold the activity, and they need ANC approval. Melissa, what year is this for Glover Park Day?

Lane: This will be the 32nd.

Blumenthal: 32nd Clover Park Day. So you'll be hearing more about this later, but Melissa has written a letter. It's a standard format letter. And do you want to say anything, Melissa?

Lane: If anybody who wants to volunteer, please do.

Blumenthal: You should say it stronger. We need volunteers, really badly.

Lane: We need volunteers.

Howie: Who do people reach out to if they want to volunteer?

Lane: I'm going to put the email address in the chat. It's GloverParkDay@gpcadc.org.

Blumenthal: GPCADC, one word, right, dot org?

Lane: Yeah. GloverParkDay is also one word.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Lane: And it's in the chat now.

Blumenthal: All right, so anybody who wants to volunteer, we need your help. I will move that we vote to support the permit for Glover Park Day. Is there a second?

Howie: I'll second.

Blumenthal: All in favor, raise your hand. Unanimous vote. All commissioners for it. The motion carries, thank you. Thank you, Melissa, for writing that letter.

Lane: You're welcome.

Letter of Support for Lights Out DC [10:21]

Blumenthal: And we have a resolution supporting Lights Out DC, which Kevin Lavezzo, Commissioner Lavezzo, will tell us a bit about.

Lavezzo: Sure, so this is an event that's been held every year since 2007 on the last Sunday in March. And it's to bring-- It's to let people know basically about excessive lighting. And it asks everyone, businesses and residents, to turn off non-essential lights or dim non-essential lights for one hour, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This won't affect street lights, alley lights, essential lights, anything like that. It's completely voluntary.

Blumenthal: And we are agreeing, we are writing a letter of support for this, Kevin?

Lavezzo: Yes. Yeah, just to broadly support it. This would be the first year that it's done in DC. And we've had ANCs around us also vote to support, so we're not alone in voicing our support if we should choose to pass a resolution.

Blumenthal: And you want to discuss a little bit about why light pollution is a problem?

Lavezzo: Yeah, let me get to my notes. One second. Right, basically, it affects the natural rhythms of animals and humans alike. The day night cycle, every 24 hours is very important for people for their circadian rhythms to get enough sleep, to get rest. Excess lighting can disturb that, and it can also disturb the habits of nocturnal animals, you know, hunting habits. And everything that they get up to at night or during the day. Dimming lights reduces that effect, and it can help them return to a more natural way of being, and help us sleep better as well. Really not much to it. I don't really know a lot of the science behind it, just the materials that we were sent to to encourage our support.

Blumenthal: Right, people will be aware that because Glover Park is surrounded by National Park Service lands, that's one of the reasons we have dark spots, especially around the back on

42nd Street, because the National Park is very careful about preventing overlighting near its property. Also, the whole stretch of New Mexico Avenue from 42nd to Garfield is dark through the woods there for precisely that reason. So, people are pretty aware of that around here, and we would like everybody to be aware of it everywhere, which is why we are proposing to support this one hour. Which I think, Kevin, is March 25th, which is a Saturday.

Lavezzo: Yep, March 25th from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Blumenthal: Okay. Are there any questions about this resolution from commissioners? Any questions from any participants? Raise your hand or just speak out. Okay, I make a motion that we pass this resolution. There a second?

Howie: I'll second it.

Blumenthal: Gupi seconded, Commissioner Howie seconded. I'm trying to speak for the recording. All in favor, raise your hand. Okay, it's a unanimous vote, five to nothing. The motion carries. Thank you very much, Kevin, for putting this together.

Updates [13:58]

Stoddert school expansion design [13:58]

Blumenthal: Commissioner Howie, do you want to tell us anything about Stoddert expansion that is new?

Howie: Yeah. Just some quick updates. Since we last met, a lot has happened. The big thing is that we had a death in the staff. Mark McCants, who is a first grade teacher, he died suddenly the Sunday, February 19th, like as we were entering winter break. He was a first grade teacher, he was the basketball coach, track and field coach. He lived in Glover Park, either in my Single Member District or Melissa's, I don't know for sure. So that kind of happened in the midst of us having our second on-site SIT meeting with DCPS and DGS, and with the Mayor's budget dropping with school budgeting. So I will say we don't have a lot-- The updates I have are just based on what I'm hearing from the principal and our LSAT committee. The Mayor had proposed a 300,000 dollar budget cut to our school despite it projecting us having 17 more kids next year. Principal Rivas applied for I think three grants that she did get to help prevent any staff from being laid off, and the PTO has voted to help subsidize the difference in terms of like non-staff payment, like paper, pencils, printers, things like that. So we were able to help close that gap so no staff will be fired or let go because of the budget shortfall. With the SIT and the expansion, I know that DGS has been out to the west side of the school and taken various soil samples. They're the barrels that are sitting out in front of the school on Calvert Street. None of

us have really had the bandwidth to follow up just because we're still dealing with Mr. McCants's passing. If anyone in this community knows him and wants to join in the school's memorial for him, it is this Wednesday, March 15th. I believe at 2 p.m. at the school. So, yeah, that's kind of what the school update is right now.

Blumenthal: Okay. Gupi, is there anything that ANC can do to help with the budget issue, or is the school just accepting it?

Howie: I think Principal Rivas was very proactive in applying for some of these grants. I don't know the details of where she got the grant money from, or what programs, but it seems like at least for this year the PTO is able to help kind of shore up whatever non-staff budget shortfalls that there's going to be. But I certainly will keep you in the loop if there is something that needs to come up.

Blumenthal: Thank you. Any commissioners have questions about this? Any audience members want to ask a question? Okay, thanks, Gupi, I appreciate it.

Open Forum [17:12]

Presentation by the Office of Tenant Advocate [17:12]

Blumenthal: Now we are getting, having a presentation in our open forum from the Office of the Tenant Advocate. We have Christopher Lucas here and I think somebody else is here with him. Christopher, do you want to introduce yourself and whoever is with you?

Lucas: Yes, I'm Christopher Lucas. We have the whole team here tonight. We have Alyce McFarland, Nicole McEntee, and I thought I saw our coordinator, and Crisotbal-- Oh, he's gone?

McEntee: He's in another meeting. That was Alyce, she was under the wrong name.

Lucas: Oh, okay. So, yeah, you have 75 percent of the team.

Blumenthal: So why don't you just launch in to tell us about what your office does, and how people can reach?

Lucas: Okay, we have a presentation.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Lucas: How are we going to do it, guys?

McFarland: Hello, I'm sorry. Thank you, Chris, for introducing us. I am Alyce McFarland. We do have a brief presentation. I will begin the presentation. Mr. Lucas will end the presentation, and you have the three of us to answer any questions. Am I able to share my screen

Blumenthal: Yeah, just a second. We have to transfer--

Lane: No, we don't. She should be able to share. We're not a webinar.

Blumenthal: So she can just share her screen all by herself?

Lane: She should be able to share her screen.

Blumenthal: Okay.

McFarland: It says host disabled participant screen sharing.

Blumenthal: Host has disabled participant screen sharing?

Lane: I wonder how I did that. Okay.

McFarland: I know technology is wonderful until it's not, right?

Blumenthal: Right.

Lucas And unfortunately I have no help when it comes down to the technology stuff, so I'll wait.

Lane: Okay, you should be good now.

McFarland: Yes, ma'am. Thank you so much. Let me get started. All right, slideshow. One second. Okay, we are here to introduce our office to some and just say hello to others. This is the Office of the Tenant Advocate, and how OTA serves the District tenant community. The Office of the Tenant Advocate has been a voice for DC tenants since 2006. We are an independent agency within the executive branch of the DC government charged with providing legal, policy advocacy, emergency housing, education and community outreach services to District renters. Since its inception, we have been under the directional leadership of Chief Tenant Advocate of Ms. Johanna Shreve. We have four branches. The legal branch, policy branch, education and outreach, and emergency housing assistance program. Our legal branch provides brief legal services to thousands of tenants, and in certain cases provides limited or full legal representation. OTA attorneys may also assist tenants in their self-representation efforts and in navigating mediation and other alternate dispute resolution forms. Tenants may call our hotline, which is 202-719-6560, during the hours of 8:30 to 5:00, Monday through Friday, for issues such as eviction assistance, rent increases, lease-related questions, pets, mold, and

housing code violations. We also offer information regarding the security deposit returns, Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act, which is TOPA, and enforcing tenants rights. So how it works is once a tenant contacts our hotline and explains their legal issues to the intake specialist, the tenant is then assigned to either a case management specialist or an attorney advisor in order in which the request was received. The case management specialist and/or attorney advisor assignments are in order of availability. Tenants will not always be assigned to the same staffer as in previous cases. The case management specialist and attorney advisors call the tenant to further discuss the issues and provide advice or develop action plans to address the issues. In some cases, our attorneys go to court or refer the tenants to outside legal aid services. The policy branch, which doesn't-- Usually they are behind the scenes. They work with governmental and community partners and entities, including the DC Council, the Mayor's office, executive agencies, the courts, tenant stakeholders, the tenant bar, advocates and others, to promote better tenant protection laws and policies in the District. An example of their efforts are the legislation of the Tenant Bill of Rights. The education and outreach team, which you have here, as Chris stated is 75 percent. We are a team of four. We develop educational materials, classes, as well as virtual tutorials on issues important to District tenants, and participate in community events and activities. Although most of our outreach efforts are through word of mouth or connecting with tenants that we come in contact with throughout the city on our events and/or the ANCs or different things of that nature, tenants may also call our hotline, which is 202-719-6560, to request education and outreach services such as assistance forming and sustaining a tenant association, customized classes on tenant rights, request OTA to attend a community event, or request an OTA listening session. In a listening session, it's when a tenant, you know, one or more tenants have issues within their unit or their complex, and they want to have-- First we need to hear what their concerns are, and we would hold listening sessions to best see the best course of action to assist the tenants with addressing their issues. Our temporary emergency housing program assists tenants who have been displaced by fires, floods, or governmental closures. The program is only activated when OTA receives an alert from the Department of Buildings, DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, or the Red Cross. So we will not, unfortunately we do not take requests from other entities if it's not one of the ones that I listed here. It has to be activated by one of those offices to receive our temporary emergency housing program assistance. During that time, OTA will provide displaced tenants with temporary emergency housing, which usually are hotel accommodations. We provide assistance with storage for personal belongings, and coordinate services with other District agencies and community-based organizations. Christopher? My colleague, Christopher, will now begin the eviction prevention portion of this.

Lucas: Okay, I'm sorry. I had my mic off. So as Alyce just said, I'll speak briefly to you about our eviction prevention classes that we offer. In the District of Columbia, as I'm pretty sure a lot of you all may know, a tenant may be evicted for ten specific reasons in the District of Columbia. The most common reasons for evictions in the District of Columbia are for non-payment of rent, and for lease violations. All tenants being evicted for a lawful reason in the District of Columbia must receive a written notice with the various requirements, including the reasons for the

eviction. A tenant who's being lawfully evicted in the District of Columbia has the right to one, a written notice from the landlord describing the reasons for the eviction. Two, the opportunity to cure if the lease violation is the basis for the eviction. Three, an opportunity to challenge the landlord in court. And four, to prevent evictions a tenant definitely is encouraged to pay the full amount of rent if the action is for non-payment of rent. In order to evict a tenant in the District of Columbia, all landlords must go through a judicial process. If the landlord prevails and wins the possession in the eviction case in the court, the court will issue a writ of restitution. A writ of restitution is the legal permit that a landlord takes, is given to take back possession of the rental unit from a tenant. In the District of Columbia, all lawful evictions must be not only scheduled by the United States Marshal, but also must be executed in the presence of the United States Marshals. Self-help evictions are prohibited and unlawful. Self-help evictions are when landlords change locks or remove the tenant's belongings from the rental unit without the presence of a Deputy United States Marshal. And as I said before, that is strictly prohibited. As my colleague said, if you have any tenants that have any issues, I would definitely strongly encourage, before they take any kind of action, that they contact our officer at 202-719-6560. We have a website, which is www.ota.dc.gov. And we're on social media, which we have a good presence on social media.

McFarland: Thank you, Christopher. So as my colleague stated, we are on Twitter, and we are on Facebook. Our handle is also on the screen. We now are open for any questions that you may have regarding our presentation. And thank you for allowing us the opportunity to present to you all tonight.

Lucas: Once again, thank you as well.

Blumenthal: Well, thank you, Mr. Lucas and Ms. McFarland. Commissioners, do you have questions? Anyone? Anyone in the audience have questions, please raise your hand or speak.

McEntee: If there are no questions, there's one point I want to make really quickly, because there's a deadline coming up. If you have any tenants or know of any tenants who need rental assistance, there is a sudden deadline that we just found out about yesterday to apply. So please apply by tomorrow, I think 11:59 p.m., if you're looking for rental assistance. Because that emergency rental assistance program has run out of funding. It's been very successful, so they don't have enough funding left to sustain more applications. So please let everybody know that they need to apply by tomorrow.

McFarland: And in addition to that, I will also add that we also have a YouTube channel, and we have an educational resource center, so you're welcome to just type OTA inside the search bar at YouTube. We have various tutorials about all the topics that we've discussed tonight. And like I said, like we all have stated, we have a wealth of knowledge and information, so we're here to assess any tenants in the community to navigate through whatever issues they may have with their landlord regarding housing code violations of that nature. And we just all received the information like my colleague, Nicole, just mentioned about ERAP, that the deadline is tomorrow.

So for any amount I would just recommend that everyone, any of your constituents, any of your residents, people you know, your family or friends, just go ahead and submit that application, because the deadline is tomorrow. Thank you.

Blumenthal: Where is the application available?

McFarland: Nicole, would you mind putting that in the chat?

McEntee: Yep, it's online on ERAP's website. Also, I'll put that in the chat.

McFarland: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Thank you.

Lucas: And the only other thing I would say is that with the summer coming up, we do encourage you all if you have events, to let us know about those events, especially if you want us to participate. And if you hear of any issues concerning any buildings, to also let us know so we can come out and do it and start a listening session, and try to organize the tenants. We have a wonderful program that Nicole is like knocking it out of the park, a tenant-peer mentoring program, where we take I would say strong tenant associations and we pair them with newly formed teams associations, because they're really trying to build, I would almost say a lobbying group of tenants, the next time things like rent control come up or the exemption issues come up. And as Alyce said, if you have any issues or concerns concerning any of the laws, I would recommend that you reach out to our policy director, Joel Cohen. He is always looking for ideas that we can try to strengthen tenant rights with.

Lane: So, I have a question. So you also help tenants that are in buildings that have been bought by a developer?

McFarland: That is called TOPA, yes.

Lucas: We help all tenants. We help all of the tenants.

McFarland: Yes, that's called TOPA, the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act. Depending on the unit itself, the size, we have four-unit, five-unit buildings. It's just dependent on the nature of it, but to answer your question, yes, we do.

Lane: We have a building on 40th Place that has like 80 units, and I think they did reach out to you, but I'm not sure.

McFarland: Okay, so the first thing that we would suggest, not saying they don't already have one, is to form a tenant association, because the tenant association is one of the guiding principles of actually exercising the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act. And as Chris stated,

that is one of the things that we assist tenants with, throughout the District of Columbia, is helping form tenant associations for different issues. For one, as you just stated, when the building is up for sale, and so they do have options. And we like to educate and inform the tenants of those rights and empower them to move on to the next step if that's something that they choose to do.

Lane: All right, thank you. Yeah, I think they have done that. So, yeah, thank you. I will give them your contact information.

McFarland: Thank you.

Blumenthal: And we really appreciate you coming here. The OTA was very helpful on an ANC issue a couple years back and made a huge difference, and took a weight off of our shoulders. Because you exist, we could turn everything over to you and you could fix it.

McEntee: Thank you. We're happy to hear that. Oh, that's excellent. That makes me really happy.

McFarland: I wish we had a survey to send to you.

Lucas: Well, I appreciate you all, and I appreciate you, Ms. Blumenthal, for allowing us to present. And hopefully we hear from you all. I'm pretty sure you all are going to have some events coming up. As a kid, I hung out in Ward 3 quite a bit, so I know that it's a pretty festive area once the heat really rises.

Blumenthal: Well, I noticed--

Lane: Glover Park Day, we do have community groups that come, and a lot of DC government agencies come, so I will reach out to you to let you, to send you the information.

Lucas: Oh, you mentioned that.

Blumenthal: I think more people need to know that you exist, and of the wide range of things that you do. I noticed one of our participants tonight often writes for our monthly newsletter, the Glover Park Gazette, and I think a story about what OTA does would be a great cover story, so I'm throwing that out there in case he's still listening.

Lucas: I would say, I would really ask you-- I would ask you, if you could send that request to Joel Cohen, I really wish we could. Have you seen our recent annual report?

Blumenthal: No.

Lucas: Because, yes, the Chief Tenant Advocate, she's real big on the newspaper thing, and I

think you would really, really like it. If you want a copy of it, actually, if you email--

Blumenthal: Is it on your website?

McFarland: Yes.

Blumenthal: It's on your website, yes?

McFarland: Yeah.

Blumenthal: Okay, all right, we can access it there. That's great. All right, thank you very much for turning out the whole team.

McFarland: Thank you.

Lucas: Thank you. You all have a good night.

Blumenthal: Okay, you too.

Lucas: Bye-bye.

McFarland: Bye.

Blumenthal: Are there any other people in the audience right now who would like to speak out in our open forum about some issue that hasn't come up or has come up tonight? Please raise your hand, or start talking. I'm offering the opportunity--

Zuckerman: Jackie, it's Victoria Zuckerman.

Blumenthal: Hi, Victoria.

Zuckerman: How are you?

Blumenthal: I'm well, thank you.

Zuckerman: I know you guys haven't heard from Cathedral Avenue in a while.

Blumenthal: Every month, Victoria.

Zuckerman: I just want to commemorate the Department of Transportation for continually replacing the crosswalk signs. And I mean that very sarcastically. We have had probably four signs, I know four signs that the minute they're put up, the next day they're down. And they dutifully come back and put them back up again. And then they get knocked down again. I think

that's happened probably over the past two years, ten times. It's such a waste of money.

Blumenthal: And you're talking about those things that are in the middle, with the pylons?

Zuckerman: Yeah, our street is too narrow for them, and buses have to get by parked cars. Cars turning in and out of driveways, it's just insane. And yet they don't fix the crosswalks. The signs keep going up, but the crosswalks are in terrible disrepair.

Blumenthal: Well, it is crosswalk season, and street painting season. They don't do it until the end of March through October, early November. So we could probably find out if your crosswalks are on a list. Seems to me they ought to be.

Zuckerman: Right, I think what I'm going to do, finally, because I'm just a horrible letter writer, is I'm gonna write whoever-- Is it still the same guy down at DOT?

Blumenthal: I'll send you the contacts for that letter, okay?

Zuckerman: I will write it. I will copy to you guys, the letter, and just enumerate, you know, I'm tired of them getting painted because they just wear right off. There's got to be another way. Gotta be. I don't know what it is, but there has to be. In this day and age, there has to be a resolution to this, crosswalks disappearing.

Blumenthal: Okay, and I'm gonna copy Commissioner Carroll on this because he's your new commissioner.

Zuckerman: Okay.

Blumenthal: He's there. He's waving at you.

Zuckerman: I know, and he's on Cathedral Avenue.

Blumenthal: No, he's on New Mexico.

Zuckerman: Oh, on New Mexico, where you have the same problem.

Bergmann: I'm on Cathedral, though. You can include me.

Zuckerman: You're on Cathedral. Ben is on Cathedral. I knew one of you was on Cathedral.

Blumenthal: Right. Okay, I'll copy both of them and we'll keep the issue alive, at least, and hope that something gets done.

Zuckerman: I hope so, thanks.

Blumenthal: Okay, you're welcome.

Howie: Jackie, this is Gupi again. For anyone that's interested in going to the school for Mr. McCants's memorial, I threw the link in the chat just so that you can fill out like a RSVP just so the school knows how many people to anticipate coming.

Blumenthal: Thank you, thank you. That's a very sad story. So if there's nobody else who wants to speak at our meeting tonight we are moving on to administrative matters.

Administrative Matters [38:48]

Blumenthal: Melissa has circulated the February minutes. We've all had a chance to read them and to comment on them. And that being said, I move that we approve the February minutes.

Lavezzo: Second.

Blumenthal: Kevin Lavezzo seconds. All in favor? All Commissioners are in favor. The motion carries. The minutes are approved. And Commissioner Bergmann, read the monthly financial report for February.

Bergmann: Okay. It is a simple report. We began the month with \$29,822.16 in our account, and we ended the month with that amount, the month of February with that amount. But I got word a few days ago that the 50 dollar check for the DC auditor was cashed, or was received, so that'll be a transaction. We are security bonded and able to write checks, including grants, going forward.

Blumenthal: Excellent, thank you. And the mention of grants, for anybody who's listening, the ANC does make grants for projects that serve the public good in Glover Park and Cathedral Heights. So look on our website at our grant guidelines, and we're happy to take your grant application. And that being said, we will be presenting changes to our bylaws at the next meeting, which we will then vote on in May. And some of those changes may affect the grant guidelines. But in any case, you can still apply. It will only make it better, we hope. Our next meeting is Thursday, April 13th. Same place, same time, same people. And the agenda will be out at least the week before, along with the Zoom link.

Blumenthal: And I make a motion that we adjourn. Thank you for the second, Melissa. All in favor? Everybody's in favor. The motion carries. Good night, everybody. Thank you very much.

Bergmann: Good night.