

Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of October 12, 2023

Edited for Clarity and Readability

Timestamp	Agenda Items
0:00:00	Approval of Agenda
0:01:40	Police Report
0:06:12	Old Business
0:06:12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2236 40th Street BZA Case #20937
0:10:25	New Business
0:10:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by DOEE on Clean Energy Plan 2.0
0:35:26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for a zoning special exception for 2639 41st Street
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of services available from the Office of the Tenant Advocate (Not discussed)
0:54:10	Updates
0:54:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Avenue repaving October 10-27
0:54:31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder that yard waste will not be collected with trash/recycling
0:55:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the quarterly ANC meeting with Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin
0:58:08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Stoddert Elementary
1:00:42	Open Forum
1:00:42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne DeBuys, Chesapeake Climate Action Network
1:23:02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda Greenan, Pepco
1:26:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other community comments
1:31:41	Administrative Matters

Approval of Agenda [0:00]

Lane: You can start.

Blumenthal: Good evening, everybody. Welcome to the October meeting of ANC 3B. Before we start, a few guidelines for this open Zoom. You don't need to have your camera on unless you are going to be a presenter at the time you're presenting. And I'd appreciate it if you would mute your microphones until you're called upon to say anything. So the only people who should be on the screen right now should be the five commissioners who are here and anybody we invite to be on the screen. So you can turn your cameras off. Excellent. Thank you, everybody. Our first-- Let me just say that we have five commissioners here: Melissa Lane, Kevin Carroll, Ben Bergman, Gupi Dylan-- Howie. I always do that wrong. Gupi Howie. And Kevin Lavezzo is unable to attend tonight, but we have a quorum. A quorum is four out of the six commissioners. And our first-- Pardon me?

Lane: Five.

Blumenthal: Five?

Lane: We have five commissioners here.

Blumenthal: Yes. I was going to say a quorum is four, so we have five. Thank you. Our first order of business is to approve the agenda. I move that we approve it.

Carroll: Second.

Blumenthal: Thank you. And all in favor? Motion carries. Thank you.

Police Report [1:40]

Blumenthal: Lieutenant Johnson, if you're here we'd like to see you. Good evening.

Johnson: Good evening, everyone. Can you hear me? Can you see me?

Blumenthal: Yes, we can.

Johnson: All right. Hey, this is Lieutenant Johnson from the Second District. I have the crime report for Glover Park ANC 3B for this period, the last 30 days. We had one crime of violence to report. We had one robbery attempt. And what happened in this situation, a citizen was walking in the 2200 block of Wisconsin, and some guys pulled up in an old Mercedes, jumped out, and announced a robbery. They said, "Give me your things," and he didn't. He ran away, and nothing

was taken. The police was in the area, heard everything, and unfortunately the suspects got away in the car, but nothing was taken from the complainant. We had no burglaries. We had one theft from auto. And we had 13 thefts. Most of the thefts occurred in the CVS. They reported like four or five thefts in this period. Motor vehicle thefts, we had two-- I'm sorry, three motor vehicle thefts. Two were recovered, and one was a scooter that's still outstanding. Other than that, the crime-- That's our crime report. And also, I just want to say that MPD has a new 311 app. It's called DC311. If you have a non-emergency, you can download that app, and it's supposed to be up and running. It's supposed to be better than it was before. And you can, you know, like you've got-- Anything you want to report, like parking complaints, you know, trash in the area, lights out. Anything that's non-emergency, you can do that on that app. And it's supposed to be, they're supposed to respond to your request in a timely manner. It's supposed to be a good app. I haven't used it yet, but I will soon.

Blumenthal: Is that the same 311 we've had all along? Or is it different?

Johnson: Different. It's the same 311, but they have an app now you can download on your phone. It's called DC311 and you can download this app, and just pull it up and you can put in requests for non-emergency things.

Blumenthal: Okay, great. Thank you. And you said there was one violent crime. Was that--

Johnson: That was the robbery I talked about. It was on the 2200 block of Wisconsin. It happened at about 4 o'clock in the morning near the Good Guys, not too far from there.

Blumenthal: Okay. Commissioners, any questions for Lieutenant Johnson? Participants, any questions for Lieutenant Johnson? Raise your hand, please. Oh, Kevin, did you have something?

Carroll: I just wanted to say because of our meeting with Councilmember Frumin had so much content regarding crime and traffic issues, that the lieutenant may want to stop and listen to that report if we have time to make it, if you have time to stick around on the meeting until we get to that part of the agenda. You may just want to listen to that.

Johnson: Okay.

Blumenthal: Or if not, if you can't stay, we can send you a summary of it by email.

Johnson: Okay, I'll try to hang on and stay. I am at work. I've got to, you know, do two things at once.

Blumenthal: Yeah, well, that's what I was saying. We can always make sure you get a copy of the comments about that. This is just a--

Johnson: And also one more thing. You might see more police this weekend because of the

things going on in Israel. We'll give more attention to the religious places that we have in our area. Chief authorized overtime, so you should see more officers out on patrol and paying attention to the religious places that we have.

Blumenthal: Okay, that sounds smart. We appreciate that. All right, if there are no more questions for Lieutenant Johnson. Melissa, does anybody have their hand up? No?

Lane: No.

Blumenthal: Okay. All right, thank you, Lieutenant Johnson. And if you're here when Kevin gives his report, that's great. If not, I'll make sure you get the information.

Johnson: Okay, I'll try to stick around for that. I'll mute myself.

Blumenthal: Okay, thank you. Okay. All right.

Old Business [6:12]

2236 40th Street BZA Case #20937 [6:12]

Blumenthal: First order of business is old business. The last couple of meetings we've been discussing a zoning issue at 2236 40th Street. This was a conversion, addition of more units to an existing building. The neighbors protested the plan to put a side entrance and filed an objection with BZA. The ANC's policy is, in general, to respect the concerns of neighbors of developing properties, neighbors where development is next door. And so we held off giving our approval for this special exception until there's some settlement. We learned today that there has been an agreement, and I think Marty Sullivan is here and will give us a summary of that agreement. And after which, we will vote our support or not on this project. Hi, Marty. You can have the floor.

Sullivan: Thanks, Commissioner. My name is Marty Sullivan. I'm a zoning counsel for the applicant. And I see that Susan Wilson is here as well, I think, too. She's from a neighboring building.

Blumenthal: So, Susan, if you want to make yourself visible, you can also if you have something to say. You don't have to.

Wilson: Okay, can you hear me?

Blumenthal: Yeah, but let Marty talk first, and then you can--

Wilson: Okay. All right, fine.

Sullivan: Yeah, so happy to say we've come to an agreement. We did agree to move the side entrance, and the neighbors have agreed to withdraw the party status opposition, which was critical for us just for the timing alone, because it's taking more than a year to get a full BZA order, which is required when you have party opposition. So that was helpful. And then there was a lot of other little things that went into the agreement as well, but the big thing was moving that side entrance. So I think everybody's happy, and we worked really hard to come to an agreement. And we're happy to say that it was done, and party status opposition was withdrawn. And we filed the new plans. That all happened yesterday.

Blumenthal: Okay, Susan, do you have anything you want to add to that?

Wilson: I would just say that we did work really hard to come to an agreement. We appreciate the concern and the commitment that the developer showed, and that Marty showed during the negotiations. As Marty said, there's a letter that we sent in to the Zoning Commission saying that we were withdrawing our opposition, and that we are in support of the project.

Blumenthal: Great, thank you. Any questions for either party from the commissioners? Any questions from participants? Raise your hand, please.

Lane: I don't see any.

Blumenthal: Okay. In that case I move that the ANC vote its support for the new plan, and the special exception that related to it. Can I have a second?

Howie: I second.

Blumenthal: All right. Commissioner Howie seconds it. All in favor, raise your hand. Okay, the motion carries 5 to 0 with 1 absent. Commissioner Howie, will you fill out the form and get it done and shoot it to me, and I'll sign it?

Howie: Yep.

Blumenthal: Okay, thank you.

Howie: I'm filling it out right now.

Sullivan: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Okay, thank you, everybody.

New Business [10:25]

Presentation by DOEE on Clean Energy Plan 2.0 [10:25]

Blumenthal: Commissioner Carroll will take up the next order of business, which he organized.

Carroll: So we were approached by the DC Department of Energy and Environment. The city is in the process of developing their second energy plan. The first one is available online. It's very extensive. It's over 200 pages. I will confess that I didn't read every word of it, all 280 pages of it. But it is quite extensive. There's a focus on trying to reduce greenhouse gases and improve transportation in such a way that it improves efficiency, and reduces our fossil fuel consumption. So there is a new 2.0 in the works, and we have a presenter from DOEE to present for us today. And that is Jamie Donovan, who has just magically appeared on our screen. And I will hand the reins over to Jamie.

Donovan: Thank you, Commissioner and Commissioners, and also residents for tuning in tonight and having us speak. And before I get started, can you just remind me in general how long, or how much time I have?

Blumenthal: We've given you 20 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions.

Donovan: Perfect. And I will share my slide deck with you. And so, you know, some things I'll just go over. But, you know, you'll have it and so if you want to go back and look at it, it will be there for you. So I'm Jamie Donovan. I work at the Department of Energy and Environment here in DC. And I'm the project manager for the Clean Energy DC plan. And so this is one-- This plan functions essentially as the energy road map for the District of Columbia and the climate action plan. And so how do we reduce our emissions in line with the city's goals? What policies do we need? What programs do we need? What incentives do we need? Focused on the energy sector, so energy sector would be buildings, energy supply like electricity, and of course transportation. And as the commissioner mentioned, we're in the process of updating the original plan that was published in 2018. And that plan was really pretty successful in terms of putting forward a road map and policy suggestions that were then adopted by District agencies, adopted by the council through legislation. And so traditionally it serves as a good guide for where we're going here. Just a little context. Since the last one was passed, there's a lot of numbers on here, but I think the key one is a piece of legislation was passed that said the District has to be carbon neutral by 2045. So that'll give us about 22 years from when this new plan is adopted to eliminate all of our emissions from fossil fuels. And that requires a real transformation because we use fossil fuels to drive, to heat our homes, to cook. Really, in all parts of our economy and society. Here's an overview that I always think is helpful just to take a step back, and understand why we're focused on the things or sectors we're focused on. So on the left you can see our current emissions. They come, the majority of our emissions are from buildings. So think about all the energy you use to heat your building, your home, or your office building. To cool it, hot water heating, those kind of things. The energy used for those processes

is the leading driver of emissions, followed by transportation, which is about a quarter. On the right it breaks it down more by fuel type. So electricity is about half of our emissions. We have policies in place. We expect that to get cleaner, our electricity supply to get cleaner. After that, about a quarter's natural gas. So that will be a focus, because that's obviously, we don't expect that to get cleaner, so we're going to have to really shrink that piece of the pie. And then the next biggest source is gasoline. So that's really small vehicles. Single cars, small pickup trucks, that kind of thing. And then I have a few slides on why this plan is important. Some of this you guys are well aware of. But some people find this educational, so we go through it. Number one is climate change. Reducing our emissions, we do our part to address the impacts of climate change. And in DC we're really starting to feel those impacts, as in elsewhere around the country and really internationally. We're seeing more flooding, we're seeing hotter days. You know, and particularly for some of our residents that don't have air conditioning, you know, when you have really hot spells, this can cause health problems. And it can lead, and does lead, to death as well. Another public health issue which we need to address is the pollution that come from our fossil fuel economy. And so on the left we have a map that shows pediatric asthma, asthma emergency room visits. And so the darker the green, the more asthma cases in children being admitted to the hospital. And then the smaller the circle, the shorter the life expectancy. And this is also associated where we see more pollution, more highways, more driving. And so reducing our outdoor, our pollution outside the home, will have positive effects on people's health and the community's health. Now within the home, reducing combustion of fossil fuels, particularly from stoves, we also would expect to have community health impact. So the bar chart there is from a recent study that showed, that found about 13% of childhood asthma in the US is caused by gas stoves. So we're not trying to take away your gas stove or do anything like that, but we need to raise awareness that indoor combustion of fossil fuels comes with health problems. And in the future we want to have alternatives where people will install new induction stoves that run off clean electricity. Okay, another reason we need this is to address our energy infrastructure. Like, a lot of our infrastructure, it's aging. It has issues. It needs to be modernized. So, on the left it shows a map where we've detected methane leaks in DC. Methane leaks, you know, it leaks from underground pipelines, and it's bad for a number of reasons. Climate change, environmental health. It costs ratepayers because we're paying for it. In the darker blue you can see where there's a higher quantity of methane leaks, and so right now the utility is replacing a lot of these pipes that we don't think are going to be in operation over the next 20, 30 years as we move to fossil fuel-free heating and thermal energy solutions. And so do we want to be investing billions of dollars in a full scale replacement of pipes? Or do we need to address the leaks, make sure they're safe, reliable systems, and shift that funding, which is ratepayer funding, customer funding, into electrifying buildings, modernizing our electric grid, things like that. So the plan will put forth recommendations on that. Another reason we need this plan is to have more local, clean, affordable energy. DC imports-- There's opportunity to generate a lot more energy here. We have a Solar For All program, which benefits low-income communities. You don't need a roof. You can just sign up and you get discounted energy bills through solar. And then at the bottom in that little blue table shows just market rate solar. You know, if you have, say, a townhouse in Glover Park, and the sun shines on it, chances are solar would be a great investment for you if you're going to be there for more than about three years. We have such strong subsidies after about three years it can become

passive income. You're not paying the electric bill, and you can still make money off these systems and their credits. And finally, there's an opportunity, really, to be a leader in the green economy in the District. Both sort of the trades, and blue collar jobs with solar installers, HVAC folks. But also for some of our high-value companies. You know, we're seeing more energy startups, and some major energy companies have an interest in DC, and so we want to continue to attract them, bring in jobs for our residents. Bring in a greater tax base. So here I lay out the values and co-benefits. Yes, we're trying to address climate change, but we're trying to address all these other things as well, which we didn't do as much in previous plans. And I won't go through all of these because I just sort of articulated examples in my previous slides, but I wanted to share this. And now I'm going to talk a little bit about building an energy-- I have recommendations, but I thought I would just sort of give you a graphic. Here we're trying to do three things, really, in the energy sector. One is reduce energy. We want to reduce the energy, the amount of energy we need, the amount of energy we use. We then want to electrify everything else. You know, your air conditioning, your heating systems, your hot water, use electric. And then ensure that's powered by renewable energy, and so we give some examples of reducing. You do it through insulation, electrifying. You install heat pumps, which are essentially an air conditioner that can do heating as well as cooling. And then install solar. On the right it's more at the grid level. This is slightly more complicated, but it's finding utility-scale solutions to our issues here to make sure we can meet our goals, keep energy costs down, and still be a prosperous city. Not going to go through these, but as I said I've sort of articulated these. I'll share these with you so you can look through them. These are the strategies we're considering for energy and for buildings. And then for transportation, our framework is the same. We want to reduce energy use. We want to electrify the rest of the transportation system, and make sure it's powered by renewable energy. So on here you can see some examples. We have a pretty crowded transportation ecosystem in DC with DDOT, and a number of agencies, and private, and quasi-public transportation providers with WMATA. And so I don't know that we're going to put forward many new things. We're just going to make the case from what's already in existing city plans, sort of bring those together, and show how they align to meet our goals. I think the one area where we will look a little in detail is ensuring that for electric vehicles we have the charging infrastructure there, it's accessible to residents, and it doesn't overwhelm the grid. So trying to shift charging times to incentivize people to charge when energy is cleaner and also cheaper. And so it would benefit hopefully the residents as well as the grid and society at large. Again, I won't go through these, but I want you to have these, some of the strategies we're considering here. And then just as next steps-- Well, tomorrow, if you haven't got enough of me or this has piqued your interest, we have a building electrification workshop. And I can share that link, but it will look at how, you know, what are the impacts of fossil fuels on the District, our residents, and children? And then what are the solutions at scale? I mean, this is pretty interesting stuff. It's a big challenge. We're talking about real transformation in a lot of just how we've been doing things, in some cases for a 100-plus years in utility. And then we'll be releasing a policy road map. So some specific policies we're considering, based on the feedback and best practices elsewhere. And that'll go out with a survey, so if you want to get in the weeds you'll be able to provide specific comments on those, make recommendations, if you have ideas that aren't reflected in there. And then we hope to complete it by the end of the calendar year, and then it will be published sometime after it gets approved later in 2024. So on

my final slide, the QR code there will lead you to our website. That's sort of our hub. You can find everything on there. You can access, you can register for the workshop tomorrow. You can provide input. We have a form on there. And you can also sign up for a newsletter where we update the public on this plan, but also all the new funding opportunities coming out of the DC government from the Department of Energy funding and federal funding, to cool projects happening in and around DC with an energy aspect in it. So let me stop there. I hope I didn't go over my time. I usually have a stopwatch, but I didn't do that today. And I'm happy to take any questions from the audience.

Blumenthal: Are there questions from Commissioners? We'll start there.

Lane: Kevin Carroll.

Carroll: Thank you very much, Jamie. As an energy dweeb for 20-plus years for various parts of the federal government, I really appreciate that we're working on this. I want to speak to a couple of things on behalf of my fellow commissioners and our constituents that are listening in. There are really kind of three components that-- I mean, in my district in particular, but in Glover Park in general, we're pretty densely populated. And so there's a couple of things that matter, and that is that you can get help from the city for your solar or other energy upgrades through the DC Green Bank. There's also help through the DC Save Energy Utility. So there's assistance for anybody who wants it, including for apartment buildings and condominiums. So I'm trying to do that within my own condominium. The one question that I have is because of that density, one of the struggles that we have is electrifying vehicles. I own a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, which is sort of like somewhere between a Tesla and a Prius. It runs on a battery for about 20 miles, and then it runs like a Prius. But I don't really have any place to plug it in because there's nothing available. So maybe you could say a word or two about those programs and, you know, flesh out what I just said a little bit. And talk about if there's any thought to how these densely populated areas where people parking in the street would get their electric vehicles electrified.

Donovan: Sure, and thank you for your questions and comments. And I'll just say, you know, one of the difficulties of doing policy work in DC is when you go to public meetings there's usually someone in the audience that knows more than you on the topic. Keeps you honest. But, yeah, so DC has a ton of assistance programs, whether you're thinking about energy efficiency, going solar, or really anything, whether you're a homeowner or business. We have even more if you're low income or moderate income. And my email is on here, and I can connect you with the right person, and it's not a problem. So if you're thinking about anything and you just want to have a conversation about it, let me know. We have the best solar subsidies in the whole country, and so there's a lot of opportunities there to go green, but also save you money, as solar often does for a lot of our residents. And then on the vehicle electrification, yeah, so this comes up a lot. And I think it's a challenge on how we get this charging infrastructure out there. And so the District has applied for a lot of federal grants on this that we're waiting to see if we'll win. And one of the things we're looking at is using public properties for charging infrastructure. So, like, I know in Glover Park they have the baseball field

and the rec center there, and so we might install charging facilities open to the public so residents could charge there during the night, or when it's not in business. And so that's one aspect of it. And then we're working with DDOT to just figure out how we can deploy chargers on streets while also ensuring the curb spaces are free for delivery, or for bike lanes, and all the other transportation priorities. So I don't have a single answer for you, but that's been raised pretty much at every public meeting I've gone to, and something that our agency's looking into, and DDOT and the Councilmember Allen's office is also looking into.

Carroll: Thank you.

Blumenthal: I think Aileen Nowlan has a question.

Nowlan: Hi, guys. Can you hear me?

Blumenthal: Yes.

Nowlan: Yes, all right. One plug. You already mentioned Workforce Development, but I would just put a plus one on that. I asked, I was getting my furnace, currently natural gas furnace, serviced. And I asked the guy, "What about a heat pump?" And he gave me this whole long spiel about how heat pumps don't work in this climate, and I would be so unhappy, and blah, blah, blah. And this was a very reputable company that otherwise I very much trust in the kind of people who would need to be on board for installing my new heat pump when my gas furnace goes out. So just a plus on that Workforce, I think it's very important. And then my question is about how to think about describing the benefits. Like, you talked a little bit about the public health benefits, pediatric asthma and the like. And I think it's, and this is sort of my-- I guess I'm a public health nerd, I should say, I should put my cards on the table, right? So, it's easy for people to think about perhaps what they're losing, right, of like, "Oh, you're taking away my X," right? So how are we going to keep helping people understand what we're gaining through this transition?

Donovan: Yeah, I can talk to that a little bit. Thank you for your public health comment. I think that's good feedback for us to talk about how this benefits the community, and it's often in health. It can be in cost savings and comfort. Comfort's a big thing. Even though your HVAC contractor may not know it, these new systems often provide a more stable comfort environment. And then the Workforce Development, yeah, you know. That's one of the biggest challenges. Heat pumps are new, but a lot of contractors aren't comfortable with them, don't think they work. And so it's bringing them on board and, you know, we are getting \$57 million from the Department of Energy to do efficiency and electrification work in DC, and another 25 million annually in local funding. But the DOE funding comes with a Workforce Development component, and so we're actively thinking about how we engage the HVAC community. And some of it is like Workforce and training them how to do the installs, but a lot of it is just sort of bringing them on board, and a cultural shift into this different way of thinking. And it'll be a challenge, so hopefully it goes well. But it's a challenge.

Blumenthal: Okay, Anne DeBuys?

Lane: Anne DeBuys.

DeBuys: Hi, thank you, Jackie. Thank you, Jamie. That was a really good overview. Anne DeBuys, we have met. I really appreciate what you said about gas infrastructure. A little bit later in this meeting I'm going to be presenting on Washington Gas Infrastructure Plan, with a focus on PROJECTpipes 3, so you've just given some good groundwork for me. Thank you so much. And, again, great work with the CEDC 2.0 plan.

Donovan: Thank you, Anne, and thank you for your support and advocacy on these issues. And I look forward to your presentation.

DeBuys: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Are there any other questions from participants or commissioners?

Lane: I don't see any.

Blumenthal: Okay, Jamie, if you could take down your screen.

Lane: And also send us your slides.

Blumenthal: And send us your slides.

Lane: Oh, Kevin Carroll has a question, has a comment.

Blumenthal: Go ahead.

Carroll: Actually, I was just going to say let's make sure that we get the copy of the slides, and we can put it up on our website so that people can look at it.

Lane: Yes, please.

Carroll: Thank you.

Donovan: Okay, thank you. And thank you for the opportunity to present tonight.

Blumenthal: Okay, and thank you to Commissioner Carroll and Commissioner Lavezzo for setting this up. We really appreciate you doing this for our group.

Request for a zoning special exception for 2639 41st Street [35:26]

Blumenthal: Okay, we're moving on. Melissa, we have a zoning, another zoning issue?

Lane: Yes, this is for 2639 41st Street. It's on the east side of 41st, down by Edmunds. And we have Michael Lee and I think Michael Cross, and I don't know who else, is going to present on this. They want, as has been typical, they want to change it from a four-unit building and redevelop it into a seven-unit building. So, Michael, it's your show.

Lee: This is Matthew Lee. I work at R. Michael Cross Design Group.

Lane: Matthew Lee, sorry. My fault.

Lee: Yeah, that's quite all right. It gets mixed up all the time. Yeah, I appreciate you guys making time for us. And as you described, that's what we're asking for. Would it be helpful if I shared my screen so you can see the set?

Lane: Yes. Your plans are on the homepage of the website, but it would be helpful if you shared them.

Lee: Sure. Let's see here. Okay, is that working? It should just be the PDF.

Lane: Yes, that works.

Lee: Perfect, thank you. Move stuff around here on my small laptop. All right. Yeah, so as you mentioned, this project, we are at 2639 41st Street Northwest. We, on behalf of our client, we are proposing a renovation to an existing four-unit apartment structure to a seven-unit. We would be razing the two-story over crawl space, adding a partial third story, and excavate a cellar. The majority of the units that we're proposing are two-bed, two-bath, with one being a one-bed, two-bath plus den. Definition of den being very similar to a bedroom, but no egress window, so it cannot be marketed or sold as a legal second bedroom. This property is zoned for residential residential apartments. However, in the RA1 zone, any new residential development, or development related to the expansion of an existing structure, requires relief as a special exception, under DCMR subtitle U, section 421.1. And as you've already mentioned, this is on the east side of 41st, mid block between 41st, on 41st Street between Davis Place and Edmunds Street. Scroll down to the existing photos, front and rear of this semi-detached apartment house. A mirror structure is to the south of it. Location map. Our proposed site plan. Down just a touch. The total land area is about four, well, not about, it is 4,557 square feet. And we are proposing to largely maintain the existing footprint, and would be removing and replacing the existing rear area, which we believe is an enclosed sun porch. And replacing it with a masonry wall to match the existing masonry wall on the front and sides of the structure. The existing lot occupancy is 40%, which we would be maintaining exactly. And this 40% is allowed matter of right in this zone. This the existing 60% of the site would be used for green cover, pavers, window wells, and a parking pad at the rear. The zoning code requires only one parking space for such a development of seven units. However, we are proposing four spaces: two full size, two compact. This is more than the one space that I believe is there right now. We are

going to provide an enclosed, dedicated trash and recycling area. Because this is more than three units, trash will be collected by a private service at intervals set to be met, you know, to meet the building demand. We are subject to the green area ratio regulation, which will require additional plantings around the site to minimize offsite runoff. Here's our cellar floor plan showing units one and two. Each of these is a two-bedroom unit. One in the front, and one in the rear with access via a new areaway along the side yard. The existing crawl space will be, I'm sorry, excavated, and the foundations will be underpinned to provide adequate head height to the new cellar units. First floor, showing another set of a two-bedroom. And here's the one-bedroom. On the left of the screen is the den, plus one bedroom. Just because of the nature of a semi-detached structure, we don't have windows on that side. All units would be afforded with increased natural light, especially at the rear, and especially along the sides for the north-facing unit. These units will have outdoor access via balconies. I might note that if you aren't familiar already, lot occupancy is calculated as any sort of covered area above four feet of grade. So these balconies are actually contributing to the lot occupancy. So the building proper, the interior structure is actually smaller than what's on the site now. It's just that we're providing these four-foot deep balconies across the full width of the site. So the existing site, the existing structure actually goes all the way to where the balconies end now. I will mention before continuing that all these units are roughly between 775 square feet and 900 square feet. The second floor plan is fairly similar. Again, two bedrooms, two baths. In this case, that den-style unit has been replaced with a front back bedroom. And then lastly, the third floor, which is the addition we're seeking relief for. It is an autonomous 7th unit. It's a partial story, so it doesn't take up-- It's set back from the front facade by more than 23 feet, and has the rear balcony similar to the unit below, as well as a small roof deck at the front. So front elevations maintaining-- It shows that we're maintaining the existing mansard roof. Maintaining the existing brick facade. The major changes include adding the window wells for egress from the new cellar. And we will be bricking over the one window on the top right, which is a proposed bathroom. The rear is an all-new facade showing the balconies, access to the balconies. Our side facade, which shows that sort of camelback style architectural shape. And lastly, this shows sort of a cutaway of where the existing party wall, masonry party wall, is that we share with the adjacent attached neighbor. We really appreciate your time, and happy to take any questions or go over slides that you'd like to dig into.

Lane: Would you confirm that with the added third floor that we're at, what, 31 feet? We don't go over the 40-foot limit?

Lee: Oh, the building height?

Lane: Yes.

Lee: Yes. This is in the zoning info. Building height is 37 feet.

Lane: Okay, thank you.

Lee: And this is from, yeah, our building height measuring point out in the front up to the top of

the proposed third story addition.

Lane: Right, and how much space between you and the building to your north, where you're going to have the--

Lee: So the north building is the-- So along the street these four-unit apartments are all paired. So are you talking about the next pair north of us?

Lane: Yes.

Lee: Yes, so we are not moving any closer. So the existing side yard is eight feet. We are maintaining that eight feet because we're actually keeping that existing masonry wall, just extending it back where the siding wall is.

Lane: Got it. Great, thank you. I don't have any other questions.

Blumenthal: Do we have-- Have you consulted the neighbors? Are they aware of this, especially the attached building?

Lane: I've gotten two letters of support so far.

Lee: Sure. We do have letters of support. The property owner has been reaching out and sort of drip feeding us as he gets those letters of support in. Those letters of support come from-- I can pull it up on the website. Two doors down, so not the directly north neighbor, but the attached to the north neighbor. But we do not have a response from the neighbor that we are attached to yet.

Lane: But you did blanket the street, right, with requests?

Lee: I would have to check with the client to see what his outreach has been. Typically, yes, our clients do send either certified mail or drop letters off into the mailbox. A lot of these apartments we're discovering, or a lot of these buildings we're discovering are owned by llc's, so those I imagine have been mailed off directly to that office address.

Blumenthal: Okay, do you have a hearing date?

Lee: Yes, we do. Our hearing date is, here, December 13th.

Blumenthal: All right, are there any other questions from commissioners? No? All right, a question from Aileen Nowlan.

Nowlan: Although, was Anne before me?

Blumenthal: Well, we'll just-- She'll get her turn. Sorry.

Nowlan: All right, sorry, Anne. Just linking to the presentation before, actually, I was curious whether this building is going to be built for sort of zero emissions ready. Like, back to the charging question we just had, is there going to be EV charging, is it EV charging ready out back? Is it, you know, heat pump ready? I'm just curious what, if any, if you have plans along those lines.

Lee: So, one of the major green contributions this building is designed for is we are required to meet the green area ratio through DOEE, which is a storm water management and heat island zone effect, kind of deterrent. We'll be adding a lot more, all native, plantings on the site, which is currently just, mostly just kind of patchy ground cover grass. There are no plans for EV charging stations. However, we are not using gas on the site, so it will be all electric ranges. Also, mini splits, so no furnaces, no window ACs. It will be ducted mini splits, which is both heat and cooling for all units. And we'll also be providing an additional sanitary -- Well, not sanitary -- additional sewer lateral. The existing site only has a four-inch sanitary, and we'll be providing a new six-inch sanitary, as well as a new six-inch storm water, which is another requirement by DC Water to keep those two things separate moving forward.

Blumenthal: Anne, I'm sorry, you can ask your question now.

DeBuys: Oh, no worries. And I think it was just answered. I was going to ask about the thermal energy source for building heat, and you've answered it, and I'm very glad with the answer. So, thank you.

Lee: Of course. Yeah, not a problem.

Blumenthal: Susan Wilson?

Wilson: Can you hear me?

Blumenthal: Yes.

Wilson: Is this going to be a rental building, or are these units actually going to be sold? Or don't we know yet?

Lee: I do not-- I cannot say for 100% certain. My guess is based on past work with this client, that they are going to be sold. But we can definitely, I can definitely send a follow-up email with any of-- We're writing all these questions down, and I can definitely follow up with anything I don't have a concrete answer to, once we get the answers, to the AMC and SMD.

Wilson: Thank you.

Lee: Of course.

Blumenthal: Any other questions? Melissa, how do you want to proceed on this? Do we want to wait to hear from the abutting neighbor?

Lane: Those letters have been out there for about a month, so I don't think we're going to get anything else.

Blumenthal: So we did not get any objections, in any case?

Lane: We have not gotten any objections, and the plans have been posted for a while. So I think we can proceed.

Blumenthal: Okay.

Lane: I would put a motion forward to support the zoning special exception for this project.

Blumenthal: Is there a second?

Howie: I'll second.

Blumenthal: Okay, all right. Commissioner Howie seconds. All in favor, raise your hand. Okay it's 5 to 0 in favor of this special exception, so we will prepare your document and file it.

Lee: Really appreciate it. Thank you for your time. And like I said, I'll follow and answer whether or not these will be rentals or condominiums.

Blumenthal: Great, thank you. We appreciate it.

Lane: Kevin has a-- Never mind. Thank you, Matthew.

Lee: All right. Thank you very much. Have a wonderful night.

Lane: You, too.

Blumenthal: Kevin, you have a question?

Carroll: Sounds like he went away. Actually, his screen--

Lee: I'm here. I'm still here if you have another question.

Carroll: Okay. Amy pointed out that this would be a good time to make sure you have the electrical capacity into the building, especially if they're going to be sold. The client may want to consider having sufficient power, and perhaps the undergrounds out to the parking pads for electric vehicles in the context of the conversation we had just a few minutes ago.

Lee: Okay, I will definitely run it by him. We have done this in the past, so our electrical engineer that we work with knows how to, which phase to use and how to get it out there. Typically we do this when the project is large enough and triggers the, I believe, it's the-- I always get the energy code and the green code mixed up, but one or the other. But it's not a bad idea regardless of whether or not it's required. So I will definitely run that by our client.

Blumenthal: All right. Thank you very much, and please clear the screen for us before you go away.

Lee: Of course.

Blumenthal: Thank you.

Overview of services available from the Office of the Tenant Advocate [53:46]

Blumenthal: Next, do we have Christopher Lucas here?

Lane: He didn't come back.

Blumenthal: Okay, well, we apologize. He got lost in the shuffle somewhere. He was going to speak about the services available from the Office for Tenants Advocacy. We will try to get him back at another meeting.

Updates [54:10]

Wisconsin Avenue repaving October 10-27 [54:10]

Blumenthal: We are going to updates. On the agenda, I just wanted everybody to notice that Wisconsin Avenue is being repaved this week and next week overnight. So far I haven't heard any problems from this so I'm assuming it's going smoothly.

Reminder that yard waste will not be collected with trash/recycling [54:31]

Blumenthal: And a reminder that your yard waste can't go in your trash can, can't go in your recycling, and cannot be picked up by your regular pickup. It has to be picked up as a special collection. So you have to call 311, or go to 311.dc.gov to schedule a pickup for yard waste. And it must be in paper bags, not plastic bags.

Report on the quarterly ANC meeting with Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin [55:00]

Blumenthal: And Commissioner Carroll's going to tell us just briefly, an overview of a meeting. We have quarterly meetings with Councilmember Matt Frumin. Ward 3 Councilmember, Matt Frumin, meets with one or two people from each of the Ward 3 ANCs just to share information and progress on issues. And so this quarter Commissioner Carroll and Commissioner Lavezzo both went. And, Commissioner Carroll, give us a brief overview of that.

Carroll: Sure. The meeting itself lasted almost two hours. He was very generous with his time. He opened the meeting with comments that it appeared the top three issues in the city were crime, crime and crime. He did acknowledge that there is a connection between crime, mental health, and housing. And he talked a little bit about efforts being made by the new chief of police that part of the problem is that the police rank and file have felt like they were under siege from the community. And, you know, the community in turn felt it was under siege by the police. And that there's an effort underway to try and heal that breach. And the council has worked with, on a couple of things that the police have asked for. Changed the rule on chokeholds in a way that the police requested and found helpful. Councilmember Frumin said he couldn't really understand how the change made any difference, but if the police wanted it and they felt it was important, they wanted to convey their support, or he wanted to convey his support. There was a long discussion of-- There's also some discussion of how the US Attorney is choosing to prosecute, and there is a proposal by Councilmember Pinto about the police having the right to stop and search those on pretrial release. It's subject to a great deal of debate. There are some concerns about it. Stay tuned for more on this same channel. On housing, he noted that the voucher program seemed to have three kinds of people. Those who simply have an economic need, those where vouchers seemed to help. Those with an economic need who also need some help with the bureaucracy. I've been working with a friend who's going through that, and it is very bureaucratic. And those who have a, you know, much greater level of attention. All in all, I would say that about 90% of the meeting was focused on crime and public safety. But there was some discussion of traffic in many of the areas in Ward 3. I won't get into more details than that. That's probably sufficient.

Blumenthal: Great. Thank you very much. We will try to bring these updates when they're relevant on a quarterly basis as well.

Update on Stoddert Elementary [58:08]

Blumenthal: Commissioner Howie, do you want to bring us up to date on what's going on with Stoddert School and the expansion, and the boundaries, and whatever you know?

Howie: Yeah, I don't have any updates on the boundaries, but we have good news on the expansion. Melissa, I don't know if you wanted to share those slides.

Lane: Yeah, I can do that.

Howie: But to recap, over the summer we were able to get an extra six-and-a-half million dollars into the budget by Phil Mendelson. And it passed, so that enabled us to have now 26-and-a-half million dollars. And we were able to get -- if you go to the first slide -- we were able to get a plan that puts the cafeteria on the west side. It keeps the-- That one, yeah. So the white is the existing school right now. On the east end will be the ten classrooms that they're adding. And then on the west end, where the trailers currently are, they're going to put the cafeteria. And they're going to put them on stilts so the teachers can still use the parking spots underneath there. And then the next slide is what it will look like from the field, so you're kind of standing at the bus stop area looking towards the school. So that would be what the addition looks like. And this is when you're-- The left-hand picture is when you're standing in front of the school and you're looking off to the right. You can see like the new pre-K playground is up there in the front. And this is the side that would be ready for a third story if, in the future, we needed to have more capacity. So this year we'll be planning. They're going to do it in phases, so by the summer, by August 2025 the ten classrooms east end will be done. And then they'll move the trailers, they'll get rid of the trailers, move those kids into the new building, and then start the construction on the cafeteria, which will be ready for school year '26-'27. So, all in all, everyone's pretty happy with the new plans. So just wanted to thank Councilmember Frumin and his office for advocating for us to get the additional money.

Blumenthal: Great. I was going to say that, too. Matt Frumin did a really great job advocating for the Stoddert families and the school.

Open Forum [1:00:42]

Anne DeBuys, Chesapeake Climate Action Network [1:00:42]

Blumenthal: Okay. Now, Anne, Anne DeBuys, do you want to-- You can take your time to talk about the Chesapeake Climate Action Network that we promised you.

DeBuys: Thank you very much, Jackie. I'm gonna screen share if I may. Let me get into the-- Okay, I need to-- I'm trying to share my drive. Let me try this one more time. I think I sent you the slides as well. Okay, let's see. Here we go. Is that coming up?

Blumenthal: Yes.

DeBuys: Okay, I'm trying to get it to go to the slideshow. There we go. Okay, this is the first time I've done this slideshow for anyone. And since you're my home ANC, I'm feeling comfortable

doing it, so thank you. I am a volunteer with Chesapeake Climate Action Network, but I live in Melissa's building, so I'm your neighbor. I'm here to talk about Washington Gas Infrastructure Project, which is called PROJECTpipes. It's replacing some of the pipe in our distribution system. So we know gas pipelines are old. We know some of them need to be replaced and repaired. PROJECTpipes started in 2014 in response to a federal call to action to repair old cast iron, leak-prone pipe that was leaking and exploding. And when the project started there was a good intention. But the project does last, supposedly until 2054. Washington Gas would like for it to last a lot longer than that. So if you look at your gas bill, if you are a gas customer and you're not a group metered customer in a building, individual gas ratepayers will see a line item here on the bill for PROJECTpipes. That's not the whole cost. Some of the PROJECTpipes cost is hidden in the distribution service charge as well. Washington gas is sort of trying to cover up how much they're spending, in fact, on this. The phases have been, starting in 2014, this first phase cost \$110 million. And then Washington Gas asked for a bit more money. They got this total, 141.25. PROJECTpipes 2 cost 150 million. That was not the request. The request was I think 371 million. PROJECTpipes 3, the request is almost 672 million dollars. So if you look at the costs, you can see that Pipes 3 has really ballooned in its expense. Can you see the whole screen? I'm seeing part of it is blocked by-- Yeah, you can? Okay, good. So estimates of the total cost of PROJECTpipes are projected at 4.5 billion dollars over this 40-year period. But that's only the direct cost. So if we include the financing cost, we could see those expenses rise to 12 billion dollars, and ratepayers are going to bear those costs until they can't. In other words, what'll start to happen is that wealthier customers will refuse to pay such high gas bills, and they'll flee the system and electrify their homes. That'll leave the lower-income customers to shoulder the burden of paying for PROJECTpipes. If that's not sufficient, then Washington Gas could go after the District and have taxpayers, all taxpayers, pay for PROJECTpipes. So it's something to really consider. The application for the third phase, PROJECTpipes 3, is in. The application was made last December, and Washington Gas wants an answer by the end of the year. So they're, you know, they're putting pressure on the Public Service Commission to come to a decision on this. So we feel there's some greenwashing going on. Washington Gas claims that the work has reduced greenhouse gases. We're going to be locked into a fossil gas distribution system that is going to result in more greenhouse gas emissions. The claim by Washington Gas is the program will enhance safety and reliability. We know methane gas is dangerous. Jamie Donovan already has talked about that a bit, about the gas leaks on the system. So a big concern for Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and should be for all of us, is that this program directly contradicts DC's climate goals of becoming carbon neutral by the year 2045. Washington Gas is investing huge amounts of money locking us into the system. The better solution, and the Department of Energy and Environment actually released an excellent study about a method for this, would be to target repairing the worst of the leaks, and transitioning those pipes for retirement. So I think a lot of us grew up in a time when it was really considered a pretty bad thing to waste. And this is one of the most wasteful projects I have ever heard of. Putting billions of dollars into infrastructure, it's a bad business plan. It's a bad plan for Washington Gas, and it's horrible for us ratepayers. We're concerned with energy equity. Again, we don't want the lower-income residents to be bearing the burden of paying for this infrastructure disproportionately, when they already have a heavy energy burden. We're concerned, to reiterate what Jamie said, about public health. And I think-- Let me look at this.

And Aileen Nowlan also is pointing out the public health impacts. There's been a lot in the press about gas stoves and indoor air quality. I won't go over that again. But a fact we might not know is that gas stoves are leaking methane even when they're turned off. In fact, they leak about 75% of the methane when they're not in use. So our campaign with Chesapeake Climate Action Network is really to do our best to curtail this program in the public interest. We're working with other environmental organizations across the District in the area, and we're asking all of the ANCs to pass a resolution against PROJECTpipes 3. So I believe I sent the resolution to you, Jackie. Did I? Did you receive that?

Blumenthal: Yes, I did.

DeBuys: It's a draft resolution. If there are, you know, objections to some of the wording, we would certainly consider changing the wording. And I'm certainly not asking that this resolution be passed on the spot. I think folks need a chance to digest this amount of information and think about it. But if we do get resolutions passed by a number of ANCs, we can present those to the Public Service Commission and the DC Council and say, "Look, the public is not behind this." When PROJECTpipes 2 was being considered, there was a tremendous, tremendous resistance. But it wasn't enough, and so this time with PROJECTpipes 3, we're really trying to motivate the public to speak up on this issue. I will say that the number of leaks has grown, not decreased, since PROJECTpipes started. The Office of People's Counsel, who represent ratepayers in the District, say this program is not in the public interest. Their filings to the Public Service Commission say things like, "hazardous grade one leaks are worsening, and now account for almost 71% of all leaks on the company's system. A review of the reporting to the federal government indicates the current grade two leaks remain five times higher than in 2017." So, grade one are the emergency leaks. They have to be repaired immediately. Grade two have to be, currently have to be repaired within six months. "In 2021 the company's hazardous leak and year in inventory increased by 16% and 57%, respectively, reversing the decrease seen in 2020." So the leaks are not being repaired. Really, the answer is an overall plan by the Public Service Commission to determine which of the pipes really need replacing, and which don't. And then to address the worst of the leaks, and probably collapse PROJECTpipes 3 into the regular maintenance program that does handle the emergency leaks. Is that, is this understandable? Am I making sense here? It's just that PROJECTpipes feels as though it's not a necessary program. I am going to ask for folks to ask questions about this. And I can ask right now. Are there some questions people would like answered?

Blumenthal: Well, Anne, just a second. First of all, on behalf of the ANC, we will discuss this among ourselves. And if we feel motivated to, we will bring this up at a subsequent meeting. I'm assuming that this is a sooner rather than later action that you need taken, is that correct?

DeBuys: Yeah. It would be wonderful to get us a resolution passed in the next month or so. We think that the decision is not going to come before the end of the year on PROJECTpipes, but we're just not sure because the Public Service Commission has not announced a procedural schedule yet to know when that decision will be made. Washington Gas is pushing for it to be made sooner. So, thank you. Yes, Jackie, it would be wonderful if, you know, within a month or

six weeks. That would be wonderful.

Blumenthal: Okay, well, we will discuss this and see if we can bring it up. And because we're in the open forum now, I'll just quickly say, are there commissioner questions that are immediate right now? Because if we bring it up again we will have you back, and we can have more questions, more time for questions and answers. So are there any commissioner questions at the moment?

Bergmann: I guess my only quick question is have any other ANCs taken action, or are planning to take action that you know of? Or would we be among the first.

DeBuys: This is my first presentation. I can tell you that the Ward 3 Democrats signed the resolution. And there are members of this coalition presenting at ANC meetings all this month and next month. And we're anticipating that we will get some signatures, I believe, or some resolutions passed. I believe there may have been one passed in Ward 1 so far.

Blumenthal: Okay, we have a question from Kevin, Commissioner Carroll.

Carroll: Thank you for the presentation, Anne. The one thing that strikes me on this, and I think you said this, but I just want to clarify. It sounds like the strongest criticism that you're leveling is that Washington Gas is not correctly prioritizing. And that they're not really addressing those pipes most likely to be leaking, or that are leaking, but they're just going through on a capital refurbishment project. And that you ask the Public Service Commission to give the plan to Washington Gas, is that what I heard as your solution to the making sure that we're having safety?

DeBuys: So, let me back up and answer the first half of that question. PROJECTpipes began as a safety and leak reduction initiative. Now PROJECTpipes is a proactive pipe replacement program. Within PROJECTpipes there are a couple of elements where pipes are not even evaluated on risk anymore. Really, the company is trying to increase their infrastructure assets to increase their value. This is for shareholders. This is not for residents. This is for the company. And I will tell you, our understanding is that AltaGas, the parent company in Canada who owns Washington Gas now, would like nothing more than to sell Washington Gas. It is an albatross, and Washington Gas could be just trying to increase its capital assets to make itself more attractive to a buyer. But it is really pushing. It wants to double its pipeline replacement. Now, part of the issue is they're behind schedule. They're not going to-- If they keep going at the pace they're going, they will not finish in 2054. The Office of People's Counsel says they'll finish in 2116. Our target date for carbon neutrality is 2045, so this is just not-- This makes no sense. So the second part of the question is the planning needs to be directed by the Public Service Commission. The Public Service Commission needs to develop an integrated energy resources plan that looks at clean electrification, and a phase out of fossil fuel infrastructure, in coordination, across the across the utilities. That has not happened. We hope it will happen. PROJECTpipes 3 should be addressed within that context.

Carroll: Thank you.

DeBuys: Sure.

Blumenthal: Okay, Linda Greenan.

Greenan: Hi, good evening. You know, I don't have a comment about this presentation. But I heard you say that you were in community comment period. I would like to make an announcement when you're ready.

Blumenthal: Okay, I'll come back to you.

Greenan: Thank you. Thank you, I'll lower my hand. Thanks.

Blumenthal: Aileen?

Nowlan: Sorry, guys, I guess it's just my night to be chatty. Just to put on the public health nerd hat again to support this presentation. You already mentioned the local, the pediatric asthma and the like concerns about natural gas combustion. Just in case, as folks are looking into this, someone reads, "Oh, and then they'll be putting hydrogen through the pipes," which is very much a plan of a lot of these companies to put hydrogen instead of natural gas through those same pipes that we're talking about. I hope everyone on this call is very skeptical of that plan. We're seeing some science that hydrogen actually can be worse when combusted. So just in case people want to nerd out on this and say, "Oh, we do need pipes, they'll just have hydrogen in them." That is not an automatic yes. And then a question. I hear you saying we need a legitimate plan of retirement of these pipes by 2045. And I'm wondering if you already have an alternative to propose, or if that's something, you know, that would come later in the process? Like, how do we even articulate a legitimate retirement of pipes plan?

DeBuys: You know, I think Jamie can probably answer this question better than I can. But I will say that there's a primary focus on electrification. In other words, programs like Solar For All and the community solar programs can go a long way to providing local, clean energy. And I'm sorry for the person who's going to speak, for Linda who's going to speak for Pepco, because I'm really a proponent of distributed energy resources, meaning rooftop solar, micro grids, community solar projects. There is some thought that geothermal installations will be possible in the District. I think that's still being explored. I think a lot of that will be covered in the workshop in the morning that the DOEE is sponsoring. Because they're working with a geothermal expert, HEET, H-E-E-T. So there are alternatives in place, and good ones. And there are good alternatives being used around the country that the District can look at. New York State is a prime example. California. A lot of gas planning and integrated energy resources planning is happening elsewhere. We're just a little behind here.

Blumenthal: Okay, well we're going to probably take this up again at some other time. And we'll be able to do this in more detail and answer more questions. But thank you very much, Anne,

for bringing this to our attention. It's really good to have a local person talk about her activism, and try to engage the community in it.

DeBuys: Thank you so much, Jackie. I really appreciate the time. And thank you everyone who's been listening so closely. Thank you.

Linda Greenan, Pepco [1:23:02]

Blumenthal: Great. Now we're going to take other comments from people in open forum, starting with Linda Greenan.

Greenan: Okay, thank you all. Can you hear me okay?

Blumenthal: Yes.

Greenan: Okay. Thank you very much. So I'm Linda Greenan, External Affairs Manager at Pepco, and here tonight to make an announcement about an open house that we're going to be doing on Saturday, November 4th, from 11:00 to 1:00. And it's related to the application that we filed with the Public Service Commission back in April to increase our rates. It's called A Multi-year Plan. So it would cover years '24, '25, and '26. And the meeting on Saturday, November 4th, is intended for the folks in Wards 1, 2, 3, and 6. It'll be held at our Edison Place Gallery, which is on 8th Street. Number 8, 700 8th Street. Which is right up from the Portrait Gallery, right around the corner from Martin Luther King Library. There will be free parking. And so we really hope folks can make it, can come out. It's a complicated plan. And it doesn't lend itself to an ANC presentation because we really need subject matter experts in various ways, and to the comment made earlier, you know, one of the reasons that we're looking to, and this is part of our plan and part of what we would be discussing, is that we need to harden the grid for things like renewables, and more solar. And so that's really in our plan. And we'd like for people to understand that, ask questions, and hope for people to come out. So I'm going to try to put the link to the flyer in the chat. Didn't work the other night when I did this, but let's see. No. I will come back in, because this is not working. Oh, there it is. Great. So there's the link to the flyer, and hope folks can come out. And thank you for your time. Happy to answer any questions.

Blumenthal: Any quick questions?

Bergmann: I think that link doesn't work, by the way.

Lane: I don't see it.

Bergmann: That's a link to your local drive, so we wouldn't be able to click on that.

Greenan: Oh, okay. Oh, thank you. I'm so stupid.

Blumenthal: You can send the link to ANC 3B mail.

Lane: ANC3Bmail@gmail.com.

Blumenthal: And then we'll post it.

Greenan: Okay, great. Thank you. Thank you very much. I'll do that.

Blumenthal: All right, thank you very much.

Greenan: Thanks for your time.

Other community comments [1:26:25]

Blumenthal: We have a hand up over here. Mr. Szymkowicz?

Szymkowicz: Hi, my name is JP Szymkowicz. I'm a fifth-generation resident of the Washington DC, the District of Columbia. And I'm concerned about crime, and I know that we've discussed crime before in this meeting. But there's four statistics that were not presented by the police, which I've always been frustrated about their reports, because they limit it to neighborhood. But, you know, we live in a District of Columbia. And the four statistics are carjackings, 773 this year, which is a 75% increase. And 75% of those involved guns. 218 homicides. 2,700 robberies. And 5,500 car thefts, which is a double of the rate from last year. And the rate from last year was bad. The climate action representative said people are going to be fleeing the city because of climate action. I suspect that it's going to happen before that with crime. And the question I have is for Commissioner Bergmann, who supported the criminal code revisions last year. What is his plan, and then what is the ANC's plan for dealing with crime.

Blumenthal: Ben, you want to handle that? Or I can.

Bergmann: Well, I'll just say it's nice to see you, Commissioner Szymkowicz. I appreciate you coming out to say hello. And I apologize for not responding to any of your emails and Twitter messages about this. I think I'm not gonna respond to this right now, but I'll just say briefly, I'm not going to get into a long spat. I think crime is obviously a big issue. I was recently on a jury, I guess I'll tell a digression. I was on a criminal jury about two months ago, and it was a gun case. And we were a hung jury at the end, after three days. I was the foreman. We were 11 to 1 on the second hour, and then we were there for another two days, because you know, that's how that works. And there were many factors for why there wasn't a conviction, but one of the ones was that the police work was sloppy. That the gun was mixed with other material, and because we don't have a functioning crime lab because of dysfunction at the Mayor's Office, they only tested some DNA but not others. And they couldn't explain who the other people were who had DNA on it, who were probably the officers who handled-- To spare the details, there was a clip of the body cam where we watched an officer spend two minutes putting a glove on his hand. He

struggled to put it on hand, and as he's doing it he's got his ungloved hand, he's touching every single part of the glove, then he puts it on. So obviously that's totally contaminated. So I don't want to-- That's a side note, but I think there are many challenges that are in that part of the process. I think it's important that we address that. I was greatly discouraged by what I saw from the US Attorney's Office. It was not a well-presented case. It was confusing to people, even though it was not a very complex case. So I think, hopefully, that will get addressed, although that is an issue for congress. So I would recommend going to congress about that.

Szymkowicz: You know, I hope with 2,700 robberies we're able as ANC commissioners to go out and lobby the council to do something. I think Councilmember Frumin has taken an interest in this. Councilmember Pinto has, and really, I don't want people to leave the city like they did when I was a little kid. I mean, people left because it was crime ridden. And when I graduated from Georgetown University in 1991, many people chose to leave, and they moved to Virginia, and they moved to Maryland, rather than stay in the District. And we need to do something, and we need to do something fast. Because it doesn't really affect us here in Ward 3 as much, but around the city we should care about everybody, and not just the people that are our immediate neighbors.

Blumenthal: Right, thank you for sharing your opinion with us. We have not taken up a crime issue yet, although we pay attention to it, and we will certainly take your position into account when we do discuss this issue. I think every one of us feels similarly, similar concern about the effect of crime on the District. But thank you very much.

Szymkowicz: Thank you very much for taking the time to listen.

Bergmann: Bye, JP.

Szymkowicz: Bye, Ben.

Blumenthal: Okay, do we have any other people in the audience who want to speak in open forum?

Lane: I don't see anyone.

Administrative Matters [1:31:41]

Blumenthal: Okay, then we're moving on to administrative matters. We need to vote to approve the September minutes. They've been circulated, and I think somebody even read them. Sorry. I move that we approve the September minutes.

Howie: I'll second.

Carroll: Second.

Blumenthal: Second, Commissioner Carroll. All in favor? Okay, September minutes are approved. Commissioner Bergmann, do you want to take on the financial issues that are on the list here?

Bergmann: Sure. Maybe I'll start with just reporting our balance for ending in August is the easiest thing. We began with \$31,053.45, and we ended with \$31,053.45. No transactions. I'm going to share my screen of the budget. Can you guys see my screen?

Blumenthal: Yes.

Bergmann: Okay, great. So here's the proposed budget. As a note, we can freely change the budget throughout the year. We just have to amend it, but it's best to leave some-- You have to, as I understand it, update the budget to reflect your expenditures if you decide to shift things. You can't just depart wholly from the budget without going back and adjusting the numbers. The way this is currently drafted, we would have \$12,000 at the end of the fiscal year that would roll over, which I think makes sense. It gives us some cushion. But in candor, as I said in email internally, I don't think we'll probably spend as much as I'm projecting. However, if we do end up retaining an administrator, \$10,000 may be an underestimate. At an hourly rate, it depends on how much the person ends up doing. You know, maybe we'll get some more sizable grants that we'll approve. The grants, we haven't given huge, big dollar grants, but we have the funds to. Anyway, so this is the proposal. It's basically the same as what we discussed last month. Any questions, thoughts, discussion?

Blumenthal: No, I'll just say for the record that we presented these numbers with one change that was articulated last month. And, as we are supposed to, make public our budget before we vote on it, so we're capable of voting on it now. Ben, do you want to make a motion?

Bergmann: Sure. I would move to approve the draft budget for the fiscal year '24.

Carroll: I'll second.

Blumenthal: Okay. All in favor? Motion carries, 5-0. Thank you, Ben. Do we have a fourth quarter report?

Bergmann: Yeah, so that I addressed in an email, so let me just address that briefly. We have no transactions. Nothing's happened, so it will be a zero zero sign thing. There is apparently some new software, but there's been no followup about it, other than they prepared the last report saying it's on hold, but coming soon. So I've reached out to see, you know, is there something I should be doing? Otherwise we'll just do the-- I'll find one of the old excels and just do it. It won't be the automatic formulas, but that shouldn't be a problem since it's zero dollars. So my thought was that we could approve that, and since there isn't going to be any surprises, and then we could get it signed once we find out what the process is that they want us to use.

Blumenthal: Okay, I move that we approve the fourth quarter report.

Carroll: Second.

Blumenthal: All in favor? Motion carries, 5-0. Okay, our next meeting is Thursday, November 9th. The agenda will be posted at least a week in advance. Thank you all for participating and attending. And we will see you then. I move that we adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lane seconds it. All in favor? Aye. Thank you very much. Good night.

Bergmann: Good night.