

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



**ANC3B Public Meeting Minutes**  
**October 8, 2020**

Chairman Brian Turmail called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, rather than meeting in-person, the Commission held the meeting using “Zoom” technology, as allowed under the District’s Emergency Legislation of March 17, 2020, and the Commission’s vote at its March 12, 2020, public meeting to amend the ANC3B by-laws to allow Commissioners to meet, hold official votes, and be counted for a quorum remotely.

Four Commissioners were participating: Ann Mladinov (3B01), Jackie Blumenthal (3B02), Melissa Lane (3B03), and Brian Turmail (3B05), which constituted a quorum. (Three of the five Commissioners make a quorum.) Commissioner Mary Young (3B04) was absent.

Commissioner Blumenthal made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the agenda.

**Police Report**

Chairman Turmail introduced Lt. Paul Johnson, who has just been named the new lieutenant for Police Service Area (PSA) 204 serving most of Glover Park and Cathedral Heights, after serving in PSA 205, and prior to that in several other districts and functions including crime suppression. He reported the MPD crime statistics for the preceding 30 days. Only 7 total crimes had been reported in ANC3B between September 9 and October 8, all of them thefts (1 stolen vehicle, 4 thefts from vehicles, and 2 other thefts). There were no violent crimes.

Lt. Johnson noted that 5 vehicles had full sets of tires stolen in and around the 3900 and 4000 blocks of Tunlaw Road. He said that officers from the Second District had been diverted to downtown during the First Amendment protests, but MPD would try to get more patrols around the area at night.

Chairman Turmail reported that ANC3B would have a discussion of police staffing and the MPD budget at the November public meeting, and MPD Second District Commander Duncan Bedlion was confirmed to participate. Councilmembers Mary Cheh and Charles Allen were also invited, and a representative of the Mayor’s office. CM Allen had a conflict on the evening of the proposed meeting date of November 12 so the Commission would be discussing how to handle the schedule.

**Update on conversations with MPD RE street closing at CVS on September 16**

Chairman Turmail reported on the ANC 3B Commissioners’ “virtual” meeting with MPD and the Ward 3 liaison to the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations to discuss the protest at the Glover Park CVS at Hall Place and the closure of Wisconsin Avenue for 8 hours on September 16. Chairman Turmail explained that two individuals who had been at the CVS were observed by staff as leaving the store with something they had not paid for, so the manager flagged a passing police vehicle. MPD spoke with the two individuals, they returned the items in their possession, and the manager did not press charges but asked that they be required to stay away from the establishment. Another individual passing the corner

saw the conversation, concluded the two individuals had been unlawfully profiled, and urged that the store be boycotted until the manager was fired. The misunderstanding led to a protest that began the next day. Commissioner Blumenthal described the protest of about 5 to 10 individuals on the sidewalk and the street outside the CVS. Kate Dean, Executive Director of Glover Park Main Street, described the significant effects of the street closing on local businesses, because vehicles could not get through. People with appointment for physical therapy all had to cancel, and restaurants with food waiting for pick-up were not able to get those bags to customers so they lost those sales. Lt. Johnson explained that any time First Amendment protesters are on the street where vehicles could be driving, MPD has to close the street for safety reasons.

Chairman Turmail reported that the ANC would be working with the Mayor's office and MPD to identify ways to approach any similar incidents in the future to improve communications between MPD, the ANC, and Glover Park Main Street, and reduce adverse impacts on the community. Tony Donaldson, Mayor's community liaison for Ward 3, said he would be working with Kate Dean to build a better business contact list and share information more quickly and effectively about any similar events.

### **Letter to WMATA on proposed Metrobus services for remainder of FY2021**

Commissioner Mladinov reported that WMATA has issued a call for comments on extending through the end of WMATA's fiscal year on June 30, 2021, the limited Metrobus schedules and services already in effect since August, as a result of the severely reduction in funding available to WMATA as well as reduced travel on Metrobus during the COVID-19 emergency. Adriana Radulescu added that she had attended a recent meeting of the WMATA Riders Advisory Council and spoken with WMATA bus planners, who explained that when they have to cut service, they propose reductions in tiers, based on ridership. The 30-line is in Tier 1; D2 is in Tier 2. They said they remembered how much support the community had expressed for the local routes in the winter, and suggested that some additional funds would be available so if the neighborhood marshaled enough support, that could make a difference. Residents particularly emphasized the importance of maintaining and improving Metrobus service on the D2, which is only operating on weekdays, and on the 30-line on Wisconsin Avenue, which is reduced to just the 33 route on weekends. The ANC proposed sending a letter to WMATA requesting addition of weekend service on the D2 and also on the 30S and 30N cross-town buses, which the Commission had strongly supported in the debate on the WMATA FY 2021 budget last winter. The letter also called for restoration as soon as possible of all the services WMATA had agreed to offer in that budget. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the letter to WMATA. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve sending the letter.

### **Updates and Information**

The Commissioners shared information about plans for the 2020 General Election, including Ballot Drop Boxes, Early Voting Centers, and Election Day Voting at Guy Mason Recreation Center. (The usual polling place at Annunciation Church in Cathedral Heights was not one of the voting centers for 2020.)

Commissioner Mladinov reported on the September 29 Community Hearing on the Pepco rate case at the DC Public Service Commission. Stephen Marencic of the DC Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) also spoke, reporting that of the close to 80 witnesses who presented testimony, about 50 opposed Pepco's request, and he urged residents to submit written comments on Pepco's requests to the PSC by the due date in December. Commissioner Mladinov also noted that Washington Gas also is asking for a rate increase and public comments are invited. The PSC had scheduled a Community Hearing on that case on October 20. Mr. Marencic said OPC would be sharing more information on community e-networks and he also offered to provide more information on both cases or assistance with testimony if people are in touch with him at <info@opc-dc.gov> or <smarencic@dc.gov> or 314-455-6910.

The Commissioners also explained the DC DPW's plan for requiring all leaves to be placed in large paper leaf bags for the 2020-2021 Fall Leaf Collection.<sup>1</sup> DPW had announced it would be distributing 20 free paper leaf bags to every residence, the week before the first scheduled collection date, which was November 30-December 5 in Glover Park and Cathedral Heights. Chairman Turmail said he would coordinate with Tony Donaldson about any problems residents have with the Leaf Collection.

### **Open Forum**

Laura Derrenderinger spoke about the interest of some parents and families in getting students back to in-person classes at DC Public Schools by using outdoor space. She had organized a petition drive and reported that principals of DCPS and DC Charter Schools can choose to use outdoor space but it will require more funding for tents or other shelter, outdoor bathroom facilities, outdoor handwashing stations, etc. The DC Coalition on Equitable Outdoor Education has urged that the Mayor create a \$4 million fund to help schools build outdoor education space--the same amount the city provided earlier this year to help restaurants build outdoor dining space.

Sam Wyman of 4100 Cathedral Street raised the problems with the crosswalks on his block which have worn away. He also expressed support for removing a parking space on the north side of Cathedral Avenue by the crosswalk because the parked car blocks drivers' ability to see people waiting to cross the street where the Glover Archbold trail crosses. Tony Donaldson committed to looking into it, and noted that a series of 311 requests have been submitted in recent years on those matters.

Several residents also mentioned problems with the designation of a segment of 39<sup>th</sup> Street as a "Slow Street" (between Fulton Street and Massachusetts Avenue, in ANC3B01 and ANC3B04) under DDOT's new pilot program to reduce the speed limit to 15 mph and limit use of the streets to local traffic. Tony Donaldson said he was aware of the concerns, and had been talking to DDOT. He urged people to send their input to DDOT. The third phase would be launching soon and some changes might be possible. Chairman Turmail noted that the intent of the "Slow Streets" program was good but urged that DDOT engage more effectively with the community and the ANCs beforehand on an initiative like this because the Commissioners know the streets and the situation on the ground much better than DDOT does.

### **Administrative Matters**

Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes for the September meeting. Chairman Turmail made a motion to vote on the minutes. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes.

Commissioner Mladinov read the ANC3B monthly financial report for September:

#### **September 2020 Financial Report**

OPENING BALANCE: \$4,042.57

Income: \$0.00

Total Income: \$0.00

Outgoing: \$ 120.36 Bank service charge

(The account should have no charges. The charge will be disputed.)

Total Outgoing \$ 120.36

CLOSING BALANCE: \$3,922.21

Chairman Turmail announced that the next meeting would be held Thursday, November 12, 2020, unless the date had to be changed to accommodate the schedule of the speakers on the MPD Budget. He committed that the Commission would announce any change at least one week in advance.<sup>2</sup>

Chairman Turmail made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> On November 1, 2020, DPW announced that it was changing the leaf collection program for 2020-2021 and would vacuum leaves from tree boxes as usual,, and was canceling the plans for distributing paper leaf bags and requiring residents to place leaves in paper bags in order to have them collected and composted.

<sup>2</sup> The ANC3B November meeting date was subsequently changed to November 19, 2020.