

Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of May 9, 2024

Edited for Clarity and Readability

Timestamp	Agenda Items
0:00:00	Call to Order
0:00:48	Approval of Agenda
0:02:01	Police Report
0:10:52	Old Business
0:10:52	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Exception Request, 3929 Fulton St
0:15:40	New Business
0:15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WMATA Better Bus (Added to Agenda)
0:26:05	Updates and Information
0:30:15	Open Forum
0:30:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)
0:35:03	Administrative Matters

Call to Order [0:00:00]

Blumenthal: Okay, good evening, everybody. Welcome to the May meeting of ANC 3B. Before we start, let me remind you to please keep your microphones muted unless you're called on to talk. And same is true with your video cameras. You can keep them off unless you're called on to talk. And if it's time for you, if you want to talk, please raise your hand by pushing, clicking on the raise your hand button. Thank you.

Approval of Agenda [0:00:48]

Blumenthal: The first order of business is to approve the agenda, and I would like to add an item to the agenda. We'd like to talk about the proposed Better Bus redesign that WMATA released yesterday. And so I'd like to make a motion that we add that to the agenda.

Carroll: Second.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Commissioner Carroll. All in favor? Okay the motion carries, 5-0. Before we approve the agenda, let me just say who's here. Commissioner Lane, Commissioner Carroll, Commissioner Lavezzo, Commissioner Bergmann. Commissioner Howie is on her way. And I'm Commissioner Blumenthal. So we have a quorum. A quorum is four of the six commissioners. Now I move that we approve the agenda. All in favor? Second? Commissioner Bergmann seconds. All in favor? Motion carries, 5-0.

Police Report [0:02:01]

Blumenthal: We have Captain Haskis here to do the police report, is that correct?

Haskis: That's right, Ma'am. I'm ready to go whenever you all need me

Blumenthal: Okay, would you have the police report for us, then? Could you deliver it now?

Haskis: Yes, sure. Thank you for having me. Good evening, everyone. Hope everyone is enjoying this not exactly the sunniest day. For the police report, last 30 days in Police Service Area 204, which includes Glover Park, we are trending in the right direction. We had one robbery in the last 30 days, which is about even to last year when we had just one robbery. We had no assaults with a dangerous weapon. There was one in the last 30-day period last year for that. We are running about even on motor vehicle thefts. Three this year in the last 30 days, as opposed to three last year in the same 30-day period. What's very encouraging is theft from autos are down 42% this 30-day period as opposed to last year, same 30-day period. Thefts are about even right now, but they've been trending in a better direction. 17 in the last 30 days as opposed to 28 in the prior 30 days. So hopefully the thefts continue in a general right direction. Year to date, we are up on robberies so far this year from the same point last year. Six, as opposed to five at this point last year. But I will add that most of those robberies were closed with the arrest of one individual, and he recently had a plea agreement where he pled guilty, so I don't think, I'm hoping that with that robber out of the picture, our robberies will start trending further down like they have been in the adjoining Police Service Areas 203, and 205, and 206. The year-to-date on ADWs is five so far this year as opposed to two last year. Burglaries are down quite a bit. One so far this year as opposed to 11 at this point last year. Our motor vehicle thefts are up, 20 so far this year as opposed to nine last year. A lot of those have been

scooters and mopeds, which is a new development in terms of thefts. Our theft from autos are down year-to-date this year, 29 as opposed to 67 this point last year. And our thefts are up. Bulk of those retail thefts. This year, as opposed to this same period last year. 110 so far this year as opposed to 71 at this point last year. But we've been seeing that trend start to go down. So, three things I wanted to talk about. In terms of with the thefts, please don't-- With the retail thefts, we've been doing a lot of operations with CVS, and we're trying to do some more retail theft operations to try to address a lot of these repeat offenders. With package thefts, we've been having some of those on occasion. We highly recommend, in order to lessen the opportunities for people, so-called porch pirates or thieves out in the neighborhood, using something like an Amazon Locker or some kind of locker system. I know we have one at the station now on Idaho Avenue. Very convenient. You don't even have to go inside the station, it's outside. You don't even have to stay in the rain, it's under a canopy. So something like that, and we're not very far away either. I know the Whole Foods there in Glover Park has a locker system or pickup system as well. So we do recommend those quite a bit. With the-- We have been seeing a good trend on those, and also in terms of thefts, please always secure your garages. We've had an uptick lately on people trying, thieves trying garages, finding them unlocked, and bicycles getting stolen. But other than that, that is my report on the state of the Police Service Area. Any questions?

Blumenthal: Commissioner Carroll?

Carroll: I have a question about clearance on the vehicular thefts. I have a vested interest in that my motorcycle was stolen, but there was also a motorcycle stolen from the parking lot right in the building that I live in. Mine was taken from the street. And you said that there's been an increase in motorcycles and scooters. Do we have any progress toward-- I presume these are organized gangs that are getting these things and maybe breaking them up, chopping them up?

Haskis: Yes, so we've had one recent arrest, but being that this is a relatively new development, we haven't gotten too many closures as of yet. If you have a specific case, I could look into it and give you something back very quickly on it. But, yeah, it's got to the point where we really recommend-- It used to be you could just keep them in your driveway and stuff, but we recommend chaining them up, or putting them in the garage, because we do think they're organized, and they just disappear. We haven't been recovering very many of them in the District. I hope I answered your question.

Carroll: I can follow up on my particular case elsewhere. They told me not to have a lot of hope, although my understanding is that the one that was stolen from outside here, they actually foiled the attempt to break the lock down by Glover Park. The thieves got away, but the guy got his motorcycle back.

Haskis: Oh, okay. I did not hear about this specific case, but I'm glad to hear of it. Yeah, so we haven't been recovering many of them in the District.

Carroll: Okay.

Blumenthal: Any questions for the captain from the audience?

Howie: Hold on, Jackie. This is Gupi. Sorry. Hi, Officer. I just have a question. I helped foil a bike theft, and so I now have this recovered bike in my possession, and I posted to the listserv asking for, "If this is your bike, come claim it." If no one claims it, can I just bring it, 2D, and your headquarters, for you guys to hold in case someone reports it stolen?

Haskis: Yes, you could do that. You could just bring it to us and we'll handle it as found property.

Howie: Okay.

Haskis: And we'll try to find, locate the owner. It's a task we do on a daily basis

Howie: Okay, right. Thank you.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Commissioner Howie. You can light your, put your camera on if you want. Anyway, any other questions for the captain? No? Thank you very much, Captain Haskis. We appreciate you taking the time to deliver this report.

Haskis: Thank you for having me, and I'll drop my email in the chat.

Blumenthal: Great, thank you very much.

Haskis: Thank you.

Old Business [0:10:52]

Special Exception Request, 2232 40th St. [0:10:52]

Blumenthal: Commissioner Howie, we're moving on to the zoning variance in your area. Do you want to lead this?

Howie: Sure. Sorry, I'm still like on my phone getting things settled in the house.

Blumenthal: I think Marty Sullivan is here for that.

Howie: Okay, so just in brief, they presented last month to get a zoning variance to pop up, and they had not been able to reach the owners of the adjacent property, and so we asked them to make more of an effort in trying to contact them. And I guess this is an update on if they were successful or not.

Blumenthal: Okay, Mr. Sullivan. Marty?

Sullivan: Yeah, thank you. Hi, Marty Sullivan, I'm zoning counsel for the applicant. We sent to an address that we had, notice. And we haven't heard back from them. Her name's Marla. I don't know if anybody here knows her. We figured she would-- And I think Mr. Railan's not here today, but he bumped into her, too, at the property, I thought. And thought that if she was-- He mentioned this, thought she would be showing up tonight, or might be showing up if she had something to say. But that's all I have for that.

Blumenthal: All right, well, let me check and see. Is there anybody here participating tonight who has business with the 2232 40th Street project? Okay.

Sullivan: And one thing I'll note, it's a special exception, not a variance.

Blumenthal: I'm sorry. Commissioner Howie, what's your recommendation for us?

Howie: I mean, I know that we prefer getting the neighbors' input, but I feel like, I feel like you guys have done your due diligence. When the person-- Who ran into the owner? Were they able to get like contact info?

Sullivan: No, it was just Mr. Railan. No, I don't think he got any additional contact info.

Howie: Okay, I mean, I don't know--

Sullivan: Somebody's got their hand raised, I see

Blumenthal: Oh, okay. The person who has their hand raised. It only says guest, so we don't know who you are.

Vilsack: Hi, Carol Vilsack on 39th. Yeah, I'm sorry, I just use my phone and I think it just self populates. Sir, have you presented formal neighbor notification, or is that not consistent with this exception?

Sullivan: Yes, formal notification goes out with the BZA application, and then we sent additional notice to her as well.

Vilsack: Okay. Okay, thank you, sir. I do know that she lives in 3, but okay. Thank you, sir.

Sullivan: Yeah, and there's nothing-- With this application, of course, there's nothing extraordinary we're asking for. BZA is required anytime you add a unit, but the actual FAR limit is really low. It's the lowest of any zone. So we're not asking for side yard, or rear yard, or anything that would affect the structure, or increase the density beyond what's permitted.

Blumenthal: Right, I think that we just wanted to do what Commissioner Howie said, the due

diligence of double checking so that we could say, "We made the effort. You made the effort."
Do you want to make a motion, Commissioner Howie?

Howie: Yeah, I'll make a motion to approve the variance?

Blumenthal: Special exception.

Howie: Sorry, I'll make a motion to approve the special exception for this. 22, sorry, I don't have any of the paperwork in front of me.

Blumenthal: 2232 40th Street.

Howie: Okay, I'll make a motion to approve the special exception for 2232 40th Street Northwest.

Blumenthal: Okay, I'll second the motion. All in favor? Okay, motion carries 6-0. All right, thank you, Marty.

Sullivan: Thank you, Chair.

Blumenthal: We will fill out the correct form and file it with the BZA. Okay.

New Business [0:15:40]

WMATA Better Bus [0:15:40]

Blumenthal: New business is the fact that the WMATA Better Bus Network, which has been in a redesign for a couple years now, has now come back after the first round of comments, which we were very, our entire neighborhood participated in very strongly. And they have re-presented the network, aiming for their larger goal, which has a lot of points that have to do more with the District, Maryland and Virginia, and the connectivity of all the areas than our small area. But in our small area, we have seen that the buses that are proposed for us are still inadequate, and we are concerned that if the comment period opens on Monday, as WMATA seems to be suggesting it will, it might end before our next meeting. So we are taking action tonight to formally approve a set of comments that we will file when the comment period is opened. If, however, the comment period extends further, we will use that time to solicit more responses from our constituents in our local single member districts, and resubmit further comments if it is merited. For the moment, I just want to say that there is no more D2, which is something we fought for, and fought for, and fought for. However, there are now going to be two buses that will run through the Glover Park area down New Mexico, and Tunlaw, and 37th: the D46 and the C85. The C85 will get students to MacArthur, the new MacArthur High School. The D86 goes to Dupont Circle and follows roughly the route of the D2, but does not go into Glover Park area. It

does not make any stops, except on New Mexico, Tunlaw, and 37th, when it goes through our ANC area. And we find this unacceptable. We also are concerned that with two buses on New Mexico and Tunlaw, along with the bike lanes that are there, the traffic congestion will be pretty terrible. At this point, they will have to redesign, excuse me, the street to fit bus stops in there, because there are no bus stops between Cathedral and Benton Street on that whole route. And they will have to deal with pedestrian crossings, parking issues, and traffic congestion. We raised that issue very clearly in our resolution, and offer not only a suggestion that they work with DDOT to make this work for safety and less traffic problems, but also to divert the D96 back into Glover Park at 42nd Street and weaving it through to come out at 37th. I'm sorry, I'm having a problem here. We are also suggesting that the bus access to MacArthur Boulevard, with MacArthur High School, which only runs on weekdays, be extended to evenings and weekends because people need access to the school at all times. And we are particularly concerned that this project is thrown out there with very little fanfare. And it may have a very short comment period, which disenfranchises the ANCs who can't operate on such a quick notice if we're trying to include information from our constituents as well. And we believe that the WMATA planners have no idea what our neighborhood looks like, and what the difficulties are with all the hills that we have here, and the fact that people live, the majority of people here live about a half mile from Tunlaw and have to climb serious hills. Or from Wisconsin. I will say that the Wisconsin Avenue buses will be reduced to just one line, it's called the D82. And it will run from Bethesda Center to somewhere downtown. Maybe beyond Farragut.

Howie: I think McPherson.

Blumenthal: McPherson. And it will run on a relatively fast schedule, six to ten minutes most of the time. Maximum of 18 minutes. It will run all night. So while that's not ideal, and McPherson isn't very far considering how the lines used to go farther, it is not a major issue in our view. But if people feel so, hopefully we'll have more time to report that to WMATA as well. So, that said, I will take any questions about this resolution that anybody has, or comments that any commissioners would like to make at this time before I ask the audience for their comments.

Howie: This is Commissioner Howie. I just would like to say thank you to you, Chairman Blumenthal, just for bringing up this. And then also pointing out that we are the highest density within Ward 3. Even though we're small, there's a lot of constituents here. And that we have a wide array of like young, old, able body, not able body constituents. And that also, our topography is not conducive to always walking easily. So, thank you.

Blumenthal: You're very welcome. Carol?

Vilsack: Jackie, yes, thank you. When is the D2 going to stop?

Blumenthal: So the schedule is they're releasing this now. They're expecting to have some back and forth over the spring and summer. We don't know the details of that. Then by the fall they will take all the comments they're getting now and factor them into a final plan. They will present to the WMATA board in the fall of 2024 and hope to implement this new bus design by

next summer. That might be too soon, but that's their plan at this point. So for the next year everything is status quo. Nothing will change then. But we have found that there is a lot of merit to commenting. The first redesigned network was really terrible, and this one is a lot better. But as I said, still inadequate for our particular, underserved neighborhood. So we will be encouraging people to pay attention and to comment as much as possible.

Vilsack: Okay, I just find it very unfortunate that there are a lot of people who--- I take the bus. There are a lot of people on that bus that will, I don't think will have the opportunity to run out to New Mexico or Tunlaw if they live way back on W. I mean, it just, this is quite unfortunate.

Blumenthal: Well, that's what we're arguing for. And that's why we want the planners to come out to this neighborhood and see for themselves what we're talking about, because we think they have no idea of what this neighborhood looks like.

Vilsack: Okay, I'm sorry. Okay, I'm sorry. It's not a done deal, but it's on the chopping block, but it's not yet chopped. Okay. Okay, thank you.

Blumenthal: No, it's not yet chopped. Okay. Anybody else?

Lange: Yes, I'd like to comment, Jackie. I used to live at 2111 Wisconsin Avenue, and I now live on Butterworth Place, which is-- And then there's a hill that I have to climb when I go to work in the morning. And I was wondering, will the 30 and 31 buses be eliminated?

Blumenthal: They're combining all the 30s into something called the D82, which will run--

Lange: Oh, the D82. Okay, so it'll be combined.

Blumenthal: Yeah, and it'll run up and down Wisconsin Avenue on a fairly frequent schedule, seven days a week, overnight, 24 hours.

Lange: Okay.

Blumenthal: Okay, Barbara?

Lange: All right, thank you, Jackie.

Blumenthal: You're welcome. Any other comments? In which case, I make a motion that we pass this resolution and send it in.

Howie: I'll second it. Commissioner Howie.

Blumenthal: Okay, Commissioner Howie seconds. All in favor? Motion carries 6-0. Thank you, everybody, for helping me get this done as fast as possible.

Updates and Information [0:26:05]

Blumenthal: Next we have-- Does any commissioner have an update or some information they need to share for their SMD, or for something that they know about?

Carroll: I wanted to mention briefly the discussion, there's been some discussion in I guess it's 3D about possible relining of the pipes. Jackie, you said that you had heard that this has been kicking around for a while. But my understanding is that the Water and Sewer Authority has done the work in Soapstone Valley. And so there is some information on what they're doing, how they do it. And the information that I saw said that we're sort of next up. And we were going to reach out to the Water and Sewer Authority to try and get some additional information, so stay tuned for that.

Blumenthal: Okay, I can just add to that, that this has been going on for at least ten years. We originally had a lot of hearings and back and forth about it, and our last contact with DC Water was that the Glover Park portion of this was still on hold because of the difficulty involved with replacing the pipes. And if you would like to follow up on this I can give you the contact person, and you can follow that up.

Carroll: Sure that would be great. There is someone in 3D also that reached out to Ben and myself, but I think what they're going to do is reline them, which gives them like a 40-year life rather than replace.

Blumenthal: Well, the trouble with replacing them is they would have to tear down trees in order to get to them, in order to bring the heavy machinery in. They were originally laid by horses, if you can imagine that. That's how long ago they were put there. And so they are looking for a solution that does not destroy the forest.

Carroll: Yeah, apparently even the relining option, which extends the life of the existing pipes for, I don't know, 40 or 50 years, still requires a lot of heavy machinery, and a lot of loss of trees.

Blumenthal: Yeah, it's a big problem, so that's why they keep pushing it off into the future. But I will give you the contact, and you can research it and bring it back to us. That would be great. Thank you. Commissioner Howie? You're muted, Gupi.

Howie: Sorry, sorry. I just wanted to bring to note that the Stoddert Garden Farmers Market is open again, every Thursday afternoon from 3:15 to about 5-ish. Stoddert kids are selling the vegetables that they've grown in their Stoddert Garden, including I think mulch that they've composted. So anyone's welcome to stop by. They accept cash, and they will take Venmo as well. So that's Stoddert School, Thursday 3:15 to about 5:00 p.m., if anyone's interested.

Blumenthal: Thank you. Anyone else? So open forum--

Howie: Commissioner Bergmann is raising his hand.

Blumenthal: Oh, sorry. Sorry, Commissioner Bergmann. You're muted, too, Matthew. Benjamin, whatever your name is.

Carroll: He doesn't appear to be muted, but his connection to audio took forever to happen.

Bergman: Can you hear me now?

Blumenthal: Now we can hear you.

Bergmann: That makes sense. Nobody was responding to me at all. I just wanted to piggyback off of Commissioner Howie, that there is the Mann Farmers Market is also open on Saturday mornings, so you can-- There's plenty of options, and they also take cash and Venmo. So that's like 10:00 to noon, I think, on Saturdays.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Commissioner Bergmann.

Open Forum [0:30:15]

Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) [0:30:15]

Blumenthal: Okay, now we're in open forum. So, maybe Matthew. Hello, Matthew.

Barclay: Hello, everyone. My name is Matthew Barclay, I'm the Ward 3 liaison for the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services. I'll put my information in the chat, so if you ever need anything, please let me know. I'll keep it short this week. It's Small Business Week, where Mayor Bowser highlighted 2025 or FY 2025 budgets including robust retail investments. 4.9 million for Main Streets program, 26 million for implementation of the BEST Act, which will simplify business licensing processes. 1.5 million for the DC Business portal, which will also streamline the licensing process. Excuse me. And 6.7 million for Clean Teams and other great retail grants, and great streets initiatives. I'll skip the crime trends because Captain Haskis did a great job. There is a high school internship program that the Department of Employment Services launched on May 1st. I'll put information in the chat. It's for ages 14 to 21 and interested employers who would like to have an internship. As well, there's also fun-- Excuse me, I am a mess tonight. There is a fun event at the Department of Public Works which will happen on June 1st. It is a DC city-wide annual truck touch event. So all of the trucks that you see working -- Snowplows, fire trucks, things like that -- your family can come out and touch them, and take tours, and everything like that. So that'll be June 1st at the RFK Stadium lot. And of course it's budget season, so you can check out Mayor Bowser's budget at budget.dc.gov. And I hope you all have a wonderful night.

Blumenthal: Any questions for the Mayor's representative here?

Howie: Yeah, hi, Matthew. This is Commissioner Howie.

Barclay: Hi, how are you?

Howie: I'm well. I just wanted to touch base about MacArthur High School and the budget. I know that the Mayor has expressed multiple times the desire and understanding the need for MacArthur's renovation to include an auditorium and an appropriate size cafeteria. Yet the council has not allowed a budget that would enable that to happen. Is there, is the Mayor's office aware of this? And is there any sort of effort on your end to work with the council to find the money to fund that?

Barclay: Fantastic question. I'll have to get back to you on the specifics. However, there's 74 million allocated in the FY 24 budget to modernize and renovate MacArthur High School, as well as smaller scale improvements to Stoddert and Hardy. MacArthur will be the biggest chunk of that 74 million, so that is a big part of this budget.

Howie: Yeah, I understand I'm bringing this up kind of guerrilla style and you weren't expecting it. I just wanted it to be documented that that is the current issue right now. I know that Councilmember Frumin had a meeting with DCPS and some DGS representatives on Tuesday that I was at. And it seems to be that the money allocated, I don't know how it works between the council and the Mayor's office, but it's not quite enough to give the students at MacArthur an appropriate high school experience without a cafeteria or auditorium. So I just wanted to bring this up, and then I'm sure Councilmember Frumin's office will be reaching out to you or the Mayor's office to discuss more. But I just wanted to have this be put out there. And if anyone has any questions about it, they're more than welcome to email me, and I will drop my email in the chat that I check on a daily basis and can respond to like daily.

Barclay: Yeah, thank you for raising that. I don't have any specifics at the moment. I'd have to get back to you. Thank you.

Blumenthal: Any questions from our participants?

Barclay: I will get back to you about that.

Blumenthal: Okay. Well, thank you, Matthew. We always appreciate you coming to our meetings.

Barclay: Thank you. Appreciate y'all.

Blumenthal: Okay, have a good evening.

Administrative Matters [0:35:03]

Blumenthal: We are moving on to administrative matters, unless there's any other person out there who wants to provide information, or has an issue that they would like to bring up. Okay, administrative matters. We have seen the April minutes. I make a motion that we approve them. Commissioner Bergmann seconds the motion. All in favor? Motion carries 6-0. Commissioner Lavezzo, would you want to take on the financial reports for us, please? The best you can.

Lavezzo: Finally I have something to report to everyone. So we're going to start with the month-to month, and then we're going to do the quarter two '24 report. So for the month of February, we had a starting balance of \$34,463.78. The ending balance was the same. We didn't write any checks or have any outflow. March was the same, with the same balance. We spoke last month about an issue with us getting our allotment from the city, and that factors into nothing coming in. April was a little different, in that we had a starting balance of \$34,463.78, with an ending balance of \$31,723.47. We had \$2,740.31 of outflow, which was three checks. We paid our ANC Security Fund. We had a grant approved for the Glover Park Citizens Association for Glover Park Day for \$2,500. And we paid for our tabulator that takes the transcripts of our minutes for \$190.71. So at this point I need to say some very specific words to satisfy OANC. And that is we are going to hear and then vote on the 2Q '24 financial report. We had only \$190 of disbursements in that period. We started with \$34,653.78, and we somehow ended with the same, which is interesting given we had \$190 of outflow. I will have to look at that again. I'm not quite sure-- Oh, disregard, sorry. We had \$34,463.78 at the end of 2Q '24, so that does check out. And I would like to make a motion to certify the 2Q '24 quarterly financial report

Howie: Commissioner Howie seconds.

Blumenthal: All in favor of the report? Motion carries 6-0. Thank you, Commissioner Lavezzo. I hope we'll stay caught up. And I know it's not your fault, it's our bank. Okay, the next meeting is Thursday, June 13th. You can always let us know if there's an issue you'd like us to discuss at ANC 3B mail. Wait, Melissa, tell me the address again for sending us an email.

Lane: ANC3Bmail@gmail.com.

Blumenthal: Okay, sorry.

Lane: It's okay.

Blumenthal: And that said, unless anybody has anything else to say I make a motion that we adjourn.

Howie: Commission Howie seconds.

Blumenthal: Okay, all in favor? Motion carries 6-0. Thank you very much. See you all next month.

Lavezzo: Thank you.