

Transcript of ANC 3B Meeting of November 14, 2024

Edited for Clarity and Readability

Timestamp	Agenda Items
0:00:00	Call to Order
0:00:00	Approval of Agenda
0:01:40	Police Report
	Old Business (Not discussed)
0:04:55	New Business
0:04:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of new DDOT rules regarding streateries
0:09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special exception zoning request for 3544 W Place
0:13:34	Updates and Information
0:13:34	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ANC Election Results
0:15:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on WMATA's final plan for bus service
0:21:53	Open Forum
0:21:53	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ashlee Mercer, Ward 3 Councilmember Frumin's Office
0:24:48	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS)
0:27:43	Administrative Matters

Call to Order [0:00:00]

Approval of Agenda [0:00:00]

Blumenthal: Good evening, everybody. Welcome to the November meeting of ANC 3B. We typically ask you to mute your microphones, close your videos unless you are called on to speak. And when we call on you, you can open up your video, and we'll tell you when to do that. But it is important to mute your mics. First order on the agenda is to approve the agenda. We need to add something we forgot. I move that we add approval of the fiscal year '24 fourth quarter report, financial report. All in favor? Second, Commissioner Carroll. All in favor? Gupi, you have to talk and say, because I can't see you. All right, she's not here yet, but we have a quorum.

Howie: Sorry, I'm here. Just in a car with a bunch of kids.

Blumenthal: Okay. So the motion carries. Now I need to approve the agenda.

Lane: Second.

Blumenthal: Second, Commissioner Lane. All in favor of approving the agenda? Motion carries, 6-0. Thank you very much.

Police Report [0:01:40]

Blumenthal: The police report. Lieutenant Johnson, you're here.

Johnson: Hello, everyone. How's everyone doing in Glover Park, ANC 3B? I'll send a special shout out to the kids in the car. Welcome. Glover Park, this month we have a pretty good report, although our thefts went up by two. Our numbers, we have 18 crimes to report. This time last year we had 16 crimes to report. But the crimes we have are no part one offenses, no homicides, no burglaries, no assault with dangerous weapons. We had nine thefts, and nine thefts from auto. That equals 18 crimes. And the theft from autos this year, we had a couple of tire thefts down on the 3900 block of Tunlaw Road where they took all four tires. In response to that, we have added extra patrols and overtime in that area at night to try to catch these guys. They've been hitting us all over the Second District. Up in Cathedral Heights, Woodley Park, and 3500 block of Connecticut, as well as up by Chesapeake Street. We've been hit the last three or four months. It's the same M.O., they're taking all four tires, and sometimes they get airbags, but mainly four tires from these cars. The types of vehicles we're talking about are newer vehicles, like 2021 to 2024 Hondas and Toyotas. So we encourage everyone to get, if you don't have them, wheel locks. If you live in one of those apartments on Tunlaw, we advise

the neighbors to get wheel locks and put them on their vehicle. Especially if they have a newer vehicle, they're targeting these vehicles. And we had a total, in the last 30 days, maybe three that we lost. That's a whole lot for a month. They took all four tires. Also, this holiday season package thefts will be up, as usual, during the holidays. A reminder that we have the lockers, Amazon lockers at 2D. So if you have something that you need delivered, please utilize our Amazon lockers at the Second District. They're available for any package you have to be delivered, especially the more expensive ones. If you're not going to be home, please utilize Amazon lockers. Other than that, I don't have anything else to report as far as crime in Glover Park. Most of our thefts came from the CVS. We had like three or four thefts from that CVS on the 2200 block of Wisconsin. And they took personal items. Any questions about crime going on in ANC 3B?

Blumenthal: Any commissioners with questions? Raise your hand. Anyone in the audience with questions, please raise your hand.

Johnson: And questions from the kids?

Blumenthal: There's a kid with a hand raised in Gupi's car. Okay, all right.

Lane: I don't see anybody.

Blumenthal: What?

Lane: I don't see anybody.

Blumenthal: Okay. All right, thank you very much, Lieutenant Johnson.

Johnson: If you have any questions throughout the month, give me a call or shoot me an email. I'll be glad to respond if anything's going on that's of interest.

Blumenthal: Okay. Thank you so much.

Johnson: All right, thank you.

Blumenthal: All right, good night.

Johnson: Good night.

New Business [0:04:55]

Discussion of new DDOT rules regarding streateries [0:04:55]

Blumenthal: Next is a discussion and a vote regarding Streateries in Glover Park. We only have one at Rocklands, and part of one next to it at the new Uyghur place. But I'm not sure if that one is an operation. But Rocklands would like very much to keep its Streatery. It allows it to have an outdoor eating space, and they've asked for our help in relation to the new regulations, which will make the Streatery program permanent. It was a temporary solution to the pandemic problem, where people did not want to eat inside while the COVID-19 germs were spreading. And for places that did not have sidewalk cafes, the Streateries allowed them to continue having business during the pandemic shutdowns. And now they've decided, DDOT has decided to make the program permanent under a whole set of complicated rules that I won't bother to go into now. Except for the fact that the rules ban Streateries on roads that have rush hour parking restrictions, which all of Wisconsin Avenue has. Every inbound and outbound parking lane has parking banned in the morning going inbound. In the afternoon, going outbound. And the Rocklands Streatery is in the inbound lane, where there's a rush hour parking restriction. Since this affects every Streatery on Wisconsin Avenue, including those in Cleveland Park and further up, and also in Georgetown, we have a resolution that we're going to vote on tonight which asks DDOT to change the policy across the board. And, at a minimum, to grandfather in the Streateries that already exist. And, at best, lift the rush hour parking restrictions in commercial areas along Wisconsin Avenue, or throughout the city, but we're only asking for Wisconsin. And we justified that by saying that the Streateries have been there for two years, almost two years, and we haven't had a lot of problems with traffic. And traffic right now is pretty much back to where it was, and it's still not a big problem for cars to avoid the Streateries. And we're also asking for DDOT to address the high cost of having a Streatery, because their demands for construction regularities and standards are very high, and their rate for leasing public space is \$20 a square foot. And these Streateries help struggling restaurants more than anybody. And since most restaurants are struggling right now, the Streatery's expense could be a problem. DDOT will be holding a hearing in front of the Public Space Commission, which will rule on these final regulations on December 3rd. And we will put our resolution in as testimony from ANC 3B in that process. And I think that's the explanation. Any commissioners want to say anything else on this subject? Anybody in the audience have a question, or a comment? Just raise your hand. Okay, everybody here, our commission, has read the draft of our resolution. So I need a motion. Somebody want to make a motion? Commissioner Carroll.

Carroll: So moved.

Blumenthal: Commissioner Carroll moves that we approve the resolution and send it to the Public Space Commission. Commissioner Lane seconds the motion. All in favor? Motion carries, 6-0. Thank you very much. And Rocklands thanks you, too.

Special exception zoning request for 3544 W Place [0:09:30]

Blumenthal: The next on the agenda is a special exception for 3544 W Place. Whoever is here from that, you can show your face and open up your mic, and introduce yourself.
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Brand: Hi, Jackie. Thank you, and good evening to everyone. My name is Paul Brand. And my wife and I are the owners and primary residents at 3544 W Place, the property for which we are seeking support for our special exception. And Jackie, being this is my first time here, I don't know the extent you'd like me to provide the full background on what we're seeking, why we're seeking it, and why we believe--

Blumenthal: Just do a brief summary of what you want.

Brand: Sure. So, for our existing home we are seeking to do a bump back home addition. Our current property is a row house that is abutted by two other primary properties to the left and right. We did reach out to and discuss the request for the special exception with both of our abutting neighbors, and both provided written support in the form of a signed letter, which was submitted to the commission ahead of this evening's meeting. The nature of our home addition that we're seeking support for, again, is a bump back that goes to the rear of the property. Behind the end of our lot is an alley, and then behind that is additional parking area. And there's a cemetery just beyond that, if you go even further back. The nature of the addition we're seeking to do, we're going to seek to keep the aesthetic and style of our neighborhood and the surrounding properties. There are a number of other properties on our block and within our neighborhood that have done this sort of bump back home addition. So we feel like this is keeping in style and aesthetic of the overall portion of Glover Park that we've lived in for seven years now, and wish to keep living for many more years with our two kids, which are the primary drivers for seeking this home expansion. So with that, I'll pause and answer any questions if there are any.

Blumenthal: The exception that you want is four more feet of extension, correct?

Brand: Yes. Yes, Ma'am. And the four more feet is relative to only one side of our property. On the other side it's not, we don't need the exception. It's just for one side of the property. We're seeking a four foot additional exception to go back.

Blumenthal: And the exception is because you're allowed to extend ten feet beyond your property, but not beyond ten feet without an exception.

Brand: That is correct, yes.

Blumenthal: And both your neighbors on both sides have agreed that that's okay with them, which is the criteria that this commission generally uses regarding exceptions. Are there any commissioners with questions? Anyone in the audience have a question? Okay, I move that we approve the special exception, and notify the Zoning Commission appropriately of our stance on this all in favor? Oh, a second, Commissioner Howie. All in favor? Motion carries, 6-0. Okay. Thanks, Paul. And we will send the appropriate form in to the Zoning Commission.

Brand: Perfect. Thank you so much. Have a good evening. All right, bye.

Blumenthal: Okay, good night. Thank you.

Updates and Information [0:13:34]

ANC Election Results [0:13:34]

Blumenthal: Next is an update, and I just want to announce that as of the election there will be a new commission formed, starting in January. And the new, or returned commissioners are as follows. In 3B01, Kevin Lavezzo has won reelection as a commissioner. Congratulations, Kevin. In 3B02, Brian Turmail has won that seat. Brian used to be in a different--

Howie: I'm the new Brian.

Blumenthal: Yeah, he used to be in the district that Commissioner Howie now has, and redistricting redistricted him into what is currently my single member district. So he will take over the district that I have been representing for the last 100 years. 3B03, Melissa Lane has been returned. Congratulations, Melissa. In 3B04, Richard Pollock was elected. Congratulations, Richard. And we look forward to working with you. Or the rest of the crew looks forward to working with you. 3B05, Gupi Howie was reelected. Congratulations, Gupi. And 3B06, we have a new commissioner, Rob Rodriguez. If you're here, Rob, we welcome you, and everyone looks forward to working with you as well. Any comments, questions about this subject? No. Does any commissioner have any other updates? Open forum. I see that Ashlee Mercer is here.

Update on WMATA's final plan for bus service [0:15:35]

Lane: Are you going to update about WMATA?

Blumenthal: Oh, I forgot. Big deal. So why don't you do that, Melissa? Since I've done all the talking tonight.

Lane: Okay, I'll give, you know, the cliffnote version. WMATA has come up with final plans. We were able to save bus routes in Glover Park, but not exactly, it will not be the D2. We will have two bus routes running through Glover Park. One will be a D96, which will run I think from Bethesda to Dupont, and come through Glover Park. And the other will be the C85, which will take you out of Glover Park, and it will go from the high school and then out of Glover Park and up--

Blumenthal: To Tenley.

Lane: To Tenley. So the D2 will become two bus routes, and that'll happen sometime in 2025.

Blumenthal: But both of them will run through Glover Park. And, Ben, if you want to summarize what happened to the Ns, that might be useful.

Bergmann: Yeah, yeah. I mean, for the folks who live off of New Mexico and Cathedral, the big highlight is that the route along Cathedral was restored. I'm trying to pull up the map, just so I can make sure I capture it. But they created, basically, there's no longer the N6. There's now like an N2, functionally. It will be out seven days, although on the weekend it's going to be less good service. But it would go, it'll restore service basically to Dupont and run along Cathedral. And then they did add another line that will go, I forget where it's coming from in the top, I think it's from Bethesda. And then it'll come down to like the N2 did, basically. And then it'll go kind of below like Farragut, sort of. They're claiming Dupont, but it seems to go kind of to the Farragut Square area. And then on the weekdays it'll go further down, but not on the weekends. And that is because they changed the N2 route, basically to go to the Convention Center. So I think for the people who live in the northern part of the ANC, I think bus service actually will be improved significantly, assuming that the service isn't infrequent, which I think it will be. But that's another fight for another day.

Blumenthal: So we will put the maps up on our website. The WMATA board voted on this today. I just don't know what happened. I'm assuming it all went well, and maybe Ashlee will be able to tell us more when it's her turn to report. But it's a pretty big deal that we got almost everything we wanted out of this. And I want you to know that your commission fought really hard to fix the bus service to Glover Park and to Cathedral Heights, which we were all in the threat of losing a lot of bus service. So it's mostly been restored, and hopefully that will stay and work well for us. Okay, any questions about the buses? I think that Ashlee also put it in the chat, so if you want to look up the maps now.

Lane: We have one question from David.

Blumenthal: Okay, David. Turn on your mic.

David: Hi. Yeah, as a resident up in Cathedral Heights I'm really happy about the N2 stuff. The only sour part of the plan is that they're going to have a new bus, I think it's the C85, that's going to come barreling up 39th Street, which now has no buses on it. And it's narrow, and it has parking on both sides. And it's going to whoosh by several-- I mean, it's just a strange way they've routed it because the buildings, like our building and the next building, and the Enunciation School, are very close to the street. There's no nice lawn divisions or whatever, so we're kind of wondering if that's really going to work out. And we've been told that well, you know, if it proves to be a safety hazard or something like that, they might be able to change it. But, you know, no promises. So, it's going to be an interesting summer when this kicks off.

Bergmann: Just to clarify, so the C85, I'm looking at the map. So, it cuts on Idaho, and then does it cut back? It goes back, is that what it does on the other street?

David: I believe it goes north on 39th. And I'm not sure if it travels along Cathedral, and then takes a left onto 39th. Or if it actually starts lower, like at Garfield on 39th. I'm not sure of the map. But you probably have it up and could see it.

Bergmann: The map is not clear.

Lane: I think it goes up 42nd and New Mexico, and then up Cathedral, the 39th.

Blumenthal: But David is right, because they will run these routes, and then they will see what happens, is how they've told us about it too. And if there's a problem, we can insert ourselves again, as much as possible.

David: Okay, thank you.

Blumenthal: You're welcome. Anybody else? All right--

Lane: Nobody.

Blumenthal: No? Okay.

Open Forum [0:21:53]

Ashlee Mercer, Ward 3 Councilmember Frumin's Office [0:21:53]

Blumenthal: Moving to open forum, and I've invited Ashlee Mercer to speak first. Hi, Ashlee.

Mercer: Hi. I hope everybody's well. I don't have much information about the WMATA bus routes vote, but I do know that in the newsletter, Kevin wrote that the Metro executive board is expected to hold a final vote on the Better Bus Network Plan on November 21st.

Blumenthal: Oh, okay, the 21st. I thought it was today.

Mercer: We'll definitely be keeping an eye out. Councilmember Frumin is hosting the next Public Safety Forum on Wednesday, November 20th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Attendees will learn more about the District's initiatives to address crime and safety, as well as trends in our Ward, and have an opportunity to ask questions about public safety efforts to agency leaders from MPD, OAG, DHS, and OUC. This public forum will be a hybrid meeting with two options to attend. In person at the University of District of Columbia Student Center Ballroom, or online on Zoom. I will put in the chat where you can register so you can attend. On Thursday, November 21st, at 10:30 a.m., the Committee of the Whole will hold a hearing on legislation that the Councilmember introduced, excuse me. The Universal Out of School Time Amendment Act of 2023, as well as general oversight of out of school time, OST programs. And yesterday as chair

of the subcommittee on Recreation and Community Affairs, Councilmember Frumin held a public roundtable to discuss permitting, access, use, and capacity of athletic fields owned by the District. A recording is available to watch on our YouTube channel, and I can post that in the chat as well. And on Wednesday, December 4th, the subcommittee will hold a public roundtable on the District's parks, and opportunities to collaborate with the National Park Service to ensure equitable use of, and access to locally and federally managed parks in the District. I will also post where you can register to testify for that. That's it.

Blumenthal: Great, thank you. Are there any questions for Councilmember Frumin's person. I don't know if I got your title in my head.

Mercer: Service Coordinator.

Blumenthal: Right, thank you.

Mercer: No problem.

Blumenthal: No questions from anybody. Right, thank you very much, Ashlee.

Mercer: Thank you.

Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) [0:24:48]

Blumenthal: I think we have the Ward 3, the Mayor's Ward 3 Constituent Services person here also. Kendall, is that you

Gibson: That is me. Hi, everybody. I just wanted to pop on here and introduce myself and also introduce my partner, Owen Cox, who is also on the call. My name is Kendall Gibson. I'm the Ward 3 Manager in Mayor Bowser's Office of Community Relations, otherwise known as MOCRS. I'm thrilled to be joining you today, and to connect with you all. Our role within DC government is to connect you with DC agencies and the valuable services that they provide, as well as keep ANCs and residents updated on different developments that are coming from DC government. The Ward 3 team consists of myself and Owen, who I mentioned. And Owen is a proud resident of Foxhall in Ward 3. I went to American University, so I'm very happy to be back home in ward 3. We routinely sweep neighborhoods in Ward 3, so if you see us out and about, we're usually wearing like lime green polo shirts, feel free to stop us and say hi. We love meeting residents and getting to know everybody and what your comments or concerns are regarding Ward 3. Although we just started, we've already been hard at work addressing concerns from neighbors. If you have any questions or comments that can help maintain or improve your quality of life in Ward 3, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. It truly is my pleasure to work with constituents. I will drop mine and Owen's contact information in the chat. But for now, I just want to say thank you all for your time, for your civic attention. And thank you

to all commissioners for your service. Thank you.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Kendall. Do you want to say something also? Owen?

Cox: Hello. Very nice to meet everyone, and I look forward to working with you. Feel free to contact myself or my manager, Kendall, any time, if there's anything that we can help in Ward 3. You know, I live here too, and I want to see it flourish. So anything I can do to help, I'm happy to do it.

Blumenthal: Okay, and did you say you put your contact info in the chat?

Gibson: I just did, and Owen typed his as well.

Blumenthal: All right, great. Appreciate it.

Gibson: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Okay, anybody else that would like to bring up any issue that hasn't been covered in this meeting? Just raise your hand.

Administrative Matters [0:27:43]

Blumenthal: Okay, we're moving on to administrative matters. We have seen the October minutes. I make a motion that we approve them. Second by Commissioner Howie. All in favor? Motion carries, 6-0. Commissioner Lavezzo, do you want to take over from here?

Lavezzo: Absolutely. So I'll go ahead and start with the October financials. We started with \$42,517.95. And we ended with \$42,630.12. We had a deposit of \$190 from the DC government for a disbursement. We had one debit of \$77.83, which was a check we cut for our transcription Services. Next, I will do the fiscal year '24 quarter four quarterly financial report. We started the quarter with \$43,679.10. We had \$4,956.34 of deposits from the DC government for disbursements. We wrote \$4,713.51 cents of grants in the quarter. And we had a total of \$242.83 for communications costs. That means we had disbursements of \$4,956.34. And we ended the quarter with \$42,517.95 in our account. And I would like to make a motion to approve the fiscal year '24 quarter four quarterly financial report. If I can get a second?

Lane: Second.

Blumenthal: Commissioner Lane seconds. Is there any discussion before-- Any commissioner have a question? Anybody in the audience have any questions about our quarterly report? Okay, then all in favor of the motion, please raise your hand? Ben? Motion carries, 6-0.

Lavezzo: Thank you.

Blumenthal: Thank you, Commissioner Lavezzo. Our next meeting will be December 12th. Although, depending on what's on the agenda, since we've fulfilled our requirement to meet 11 times in a year, we may cancel the December meeting depending on what's coming up. And you can always reach us through our website, anc3b.org. I make a motion that we adjourn. Commissioner Howie seconds. All in favor? Motion carries, 6-0. Thank you all very much, and have a good evening.

Lavezo: Thank you.