



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne

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March 29, 2023

Matthew Frumin
Ward 3 Councilmember
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20004

Janeese Lewis George
Ward 4 Councilmember
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Councilmembers Frumin and Lewis George:

On behalf of ANC 3/4G, I am writing to you to provide our budget priorities. I request that you incorporate the ANC's recommendations when the Council considers the Mayor's proposed budget and during the budget mark-up process.

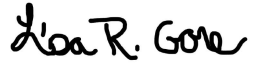
ANC 3/4G's budget priorities are based on the concerns articulated to the ANC over the course of many years. This includes resident and community testimony at ANC meetings, agency presentations, separate neighborhood meetings, and community walk throughs. While ANC 3/4G has been fortunate in respect to the delivery of many District services, we, like other communities, have long-standing issues that have remained unaddressed across the years.

As you will see, the major touch points in this year's recommendations relate to the agencies that fall under Operations and Infrastructure. We also ask that your offices prioritize our requests for the Chevy Chase Civic Core and our requests for public education enhancements.

Budgets are moral documents. They reflect the commitment of our government to serve the best interest of our community consistent with the priorities of the city as a whole.

Thank you for your consideration of our requests. We look forward to working with your offices in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa R. Gore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa R. Gore,
Chair, ANC 3/4G

cc: Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia
Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Robert C. White Jr, At-Large Councilmember
Kenyon McDuffie, At-Large Councilmember
Christina Henderson, At-Large Councilmember
Anita Bonds, At-Large Councilmember
Brooke Pinto, Councilmember, Ward 1
Brienne Nadeau, Councilmember, Ward 2
Zachary Parker, Councilmember, Ward 5
Charles Allen, Councilmember, Ward 6
Vincent Gray, Councilmember, Ward 7
Trayon White, Councilmember, Ward 8
ANC 3/4G Office
Bruce Sherman, ANC 3/4G-02
James L. Nash, ANC 3/4G-03
Michael Zeldin, ANC 3/4G-04
Peter Lynch, ANC 3/4G-05
Peter Gosselin, ANC 3/4G-06
Zach Ferguson, ANC 3/4G-07

ANC 3/4G FY2024 Budget Requests

Economic Development and Regulation

Chevy Chase Civic Core (DMPED)

The ANC urges the Council to fully fund the public facilities in a reimagined Chevy Chase Civic Core that will include a new Community Center, Library, open/recreation space, and parking along with mixed-income, dedicated affordable housing.¹ Although the scope of this project cannot be fully defined now, the funding in the Mayor's proposed FY 2024 capital budget is not sufficient and must be increased for FY 2025 and FY 2026 in order to meet the community's requirements.

Fund Home buying Opportunities for DC Government Employees (DHCD)

ANC 3/4G has been a strong advocate for homeownership opportunities in our ANC area and throughout the District. In December 2022, the ANC passed the Task Force on Racism's Housing working group recommendations² that set out ways to explore reversing the exclusionary housing practices of the past by encouraging a variety of housing options that will be attainable for residents with a wider range of incomes and backgrounds. In this spirit, the ANC would like to see the District increase its investments in grant funding for programs, specifically the Employer Assisted Housing Program and programs serving middle income workers, that provide homeownership opportunities for DC government employees.

¹ The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) held a "surplus" hearing on January 12, 2023, to consider whether a portion of the Civic Core site is no longer needed for public purposes. Memorandum from Gilles Stucker, Director of Strategic Initiatives, to ANC 3/4G Commissioners, re "Chevy Chase Civic Site — Public Surplus Hearing (revised)," December 9, 2022. On January 23, 2023, ANC 3/4G adopted a resolution indicating that "surplussing of any sort at this time is not appropriate, in part, because the Commission and the community lack the details necessary to make an informed choice." ANC 3/4G Resolution On Proposal to Surplus a Portion of the Community Center-Library Site, January 23, 2023, paragraph 9. Capital funding for the new Community Center and Library is necessary, however, regardless of whether the site can or should be used for any other purpose, e.g., for dedicated affordable housing.

² The Housing Working Group produced seven (7) recommendations that can be found in the summary resolution, Resolution Reporting the Action of the 2021-2022 Commission on the 2020 Task Force on Racism's Community, Education and Mental Health, and Housing Work Group Recommendations, December 12, 2022, pages 4-7.

Operations and Infrastructure

Invest in Traffic Safety and Calming (DDOT)

Traffic calming infrastructure and safety has been a long-standing concern in our ANC area and we encourage the District to continue to make robust investments in comprehensive traffic safety measures and provide appropriate and timely solutions. DDOT's budget should include funding for infrastructure improvements and traffic safety measures relating to the following:

- Connecticut Avenue: Measures to reduce excess speeding; New signage to prevent traffic from diverting off Connecticut Ave onto side streets. (This will be especially important if Concept C is fully implemented from Chevy Chase Circle to Legation Street);
- Western Avenue: Paving from Oregon Ave up to Broad Branch Road; additional stops signs to allow safer access onto to Western; measures to reduce excess speeding;
- Pinehurst Circle: Additional crosswalk installation; better directional signage; sidewalks around the entire circle;
- Utah Avenue: Excess speeding;
- Oregon Avenue: crosswalks to enter Rock Creek Park;
- Oregon Avenue and Tennyson Street intersection: Enhanced (signaled) crosswalk to enter Rock Creek Park to force vehicles to stop; the area is an especially high-volume pedestrian crossing and principal entrance to Rock Creek Park for local residents walking dogs, exercising, etc.; vehicles, including thousands of daily commuters, routinely run stop signs at the intersection, creating a pronounced safety hazard;
- Rittenhouse, Utah Avenue, and 30th Street intersection: upgrade traffic control with traffic lights over existing stop signs given high routine traffic volumes on Utah and the complexity of the five-way intersection (dubbed “the Vortex” by neighbors); navigating the intersection is especially problematic during morning and afternoon commutes when peak vehicular traffic coincides with heavy pedestrian use, including local school children who have difficulty crossing Utah safely;
- Rittenhouse Street: Speed bumps, tables, etc. as deemed most appropriate by DDOT in consultation with neighbors east of Utah Avenue to Oregon Avenue to complement traffic calming measures already implemented west of Utah; cut-through commuter traffic on Rittenhouse east of Utah races downhill to Oregon and is a chronic problem; school children who walk to Lafayette along Rittenhouse are at significant risk;
- Northampton Street: Traffic calming as deemed most appropriate by DDOT in consultation with neighbors east of Utah Avenue to Oregon Avenue; cut-through commuter traffic on Northampton east of Utah is a chronic problem on the narrow, congested street; school children who walk to Lafayette along Northampton are at significant risk;
- Northampton and Moreland Streets: institute a three-way stop at the intersection, adding stop signs eastbound and westbound on Northampton; at present traffic on Northampton does not have to stop at the intersection, exacerbating the speeding problem on the street;

- Nebraska Avenue: Raised table, signaled crosswalk mid-block between Utah Avenue and 28th Street, where the entrance to the Maret athletic field will be located; the Maret development will significantly increase traffic flow and congestion, necessitating additional safety precautions for current pedestrians, including school children, and new users crossing Nebraska to enter the facility;
- Access to Lafayette Elementary School: Additional traffic calming measures including speed humps, cross walk stripping, signage, and crossing guards;
- Chevy Chase Circle: New crosswalk installation; and
- Widen and improve the sidewalk along the south side of Military Road between 27th Street NW and Nebraska Avenue.

Restore the E6 Bus Route (WMATA)

The ANC has provided WMATA's General Manager and CEO and its Board of Directors our input into the agency's FY24 budget³. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, our community enjoyed the use of the E6 bus route which provided essential bus service for seniors, school-aged children, and all our residents, but most significantly those living in the Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, and Hawthorne neighborhoods that relied on it to get to work. WMATA has not restored this route post pandemic leaving those most in need without a viable mass transportation option. As such, the ANC wants funding for this route to be restored in the agency's FY24 budget.

Fund Stormwater Management Efforts in Barnaby Woods (Multi-agency effort)

\$250,000 to pay or reimburse costs of conducting an as-built survey of one or more privately constructed stormwater conveyance networks in Barnaby Woods, repairing or replacing the conveyances and other network components, and connecting or reconnecting the networks to the District's stormwater system.

Lead Service Line Replacement (DC Water)

The Council established by law The Lead Service Line Planning Task Force to develop an interagency plan for the removal and replacement of all lead water service lines by 2030.⁴ Include provisions in the budget to ensure DC meets its 2030 goal of replacing all lead service lines that are in line with the Task Force recommendations, including fully funding a block-by-block replacement strategy, developing a complete inventory of remaining lead service lines, and funding the purchases of water filters for households that have lead service lines or service lines of unknown materials.

Improve the District's Home Composting Program (DPW)

³ <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2023-03-15-WMATA-FY24-Budget-Comments.pdf>

⁴ <https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/code/sections/34-2162>

DC's 2013⁵ Sustainable DC Plan cites an ambitious Zero Waste goal for the District to divert 80 percent of solid waste away from landfill and waste-to-energy by 2032. This goal was codified into law through the enactment of the Sustainable Solid Waste Amendment Act of 2014.⁶ The ANC requests investments to raise the homeowner composting maximum rebate from \$75 to \$100 to encourage broader program participation and continued program investments to meet its 2032 goal. Ideally, a citywide compost pick up program to complement the recycling picks should be implemented.

Public Education System

Lafayette Elementary School Budget Shortfall (DCPS)

Lafayette Elementary School's (LES) initial FY24 budget is \$10.5M which represents a \$554.9K (5.26%) decrease from the FY23 submitted budget⁷. This budget decrease comes in the midst of the FY23-24 enrollment projection of 901 students which represents an increase from the previous fiscal year. Most schools across the District received this same 5% cut, which makes a case that the decrease in funding is arbitrary. LES' funding should at the very minimum be maintained at FY23 budget levels at LES and all DCPS school in the city.

Lafayette-Pointer Recreation Center Field Repairs, Perimeter Track, and Lighting (DPR)

The District's failure to address deteriorating conditions at the Lafayette-Pointer field, and perimeter running track, and poor lighting have occurred over the span of nearly 10 years. The field's deteriorated condition is a direct result of improper construction and field neglect, all resulting in major stormwater management issues. The lights in the park's upper field have been off for 8 years. The community was promised that funding would be allocated to DPR to correct the stormwater management issues prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, as of this date the repairs have not been funded. DPR's Ready2Play Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2022⁸ indicates budget investments for Lafayette-Pointer Recreation Center are scheduled for FY31 - eight years away. The community would have waited nearly 20 years for improvements at this site by that time. The ANC strongly and urgently demands funding in DPR's FY23 budget to repair the field and correct the lighting on the upper field and implement a storm water management program.

⁵ <https://sustainable.dc.gov/sdc2>

⁶ <https://code.dccouncil.gov/us/dc/council/laws/20-154#%25C2%25A7102>

⁷ https://dcpsbudget.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Lafayette-ES_FY24_Initial_Budget-1.pdf

⁸ DPR's Read2Play Master plan indicates budget investments for Lafayette-Pointer Recreation Center in FY31 <https://ready2playdc.com/> (page 149).

Human Support Services

Fund a Senior Wellness Center in Ward 3 (DACL)

ANC 3/4G has long advocated for a brick-and-mortar senior wellness center in Ward 3. The Commission's June 27, 2016, resolution⁹ called on the Mayor, the DC Office on Aging, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Councilmembers representing Wards 3 and 4 "to establish a fully-funded senior wellness center for Wards 3 and 4 West of Rock Creek Park by 2017." Ward 3 seniors continue to be underserved without a physical senior wellness center that is reasonably accessible to them. The Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) operates six physical senior wellness centers located in Wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. DACL also supports a "virtual" senior wellness center — AroundTownDC¹⁰ — for Wards 2 and 3. AroundTownDC provides a valuable service by sponsoring activities and connecting seniors to these and other available activities, however, it does not address seniors' critical need for a physical place to gather and to receive wellness services. Senior wellness centers are a significant element in the District's strategy for addressing social isolation among older adults. A brick-and-mortar center will also provide the opportunity to co-locate other needed senior services. DACL's FY23 budget allocated \$500,000 to support a feasibility study, planning, and design process for a senior wellness center in Wards 2 and 3. The full allocation was included in the Capital budget.¹¹ The ANC supports Ward 3 Councilmember Matthew Frumin's FY23 budget request that, per DACL's request, "\$300,000 of those funds be transferred to the Operating budget for the completion of the study and planning process and that \$200,000 be retained in the CIP budget for a subsequent initial project design phase."¹²

Public Safety and Justice

Safety Patrols on Connecticut Avenue and Throughout ANC 3/4G (MPD)

Assaults and robberies of people are most common in Chevy Chase along and near the commercial corridor on Connecticut Avenue from Livingston Street to Chevy Chase Circle while thefts of and from vehicles occur across our ANC.¹³ We previously had a patrol officer posted on Connecticut who provided exceptional service to the community.

⁹ <https://anc3g.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Senior-Wellness-Center-resolution-2016.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.aroundtowndc.org/>

¹¹ Table BY0-1, FY23 Approved: https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/by_dacl_chapter_2023j.pdf

¹² See Councilmember Frumin's DACL budget request, page 9, at <https://mattfruminward3.com/councilmember-frumins-fy2024-budget-priorities/>

¹³ <https://opendata.dc.gov/datasets/DCGIS::crime-incidents-in-2022/explore?location=38.969256%2C-77.060616%2C16.00>

We request funding for one (1) MPD patrol officer to restore this service along this important business and residential corridor. A duty patrol officer on the avenue would provide a deterrent to assaults and robberies as well as a rapid-response resource for shoplifting and other minor crimes experienced by area businesses. Additionally, car break-ins have been sharply on the rise in our neighborhood in the past year. Thieves target the vehicles of day workers and tradespeople, stealing equipment, tools, computers, purses, etc. We appreciate that MPD, Second District has responded to our ad hoc requests for enhanced neighborhood patrols and safety tip handouts in English and Spanish. As the car break-ins continue, we request that such patrols be made routine on a rolling basis across ANC 3/4.

Governmental Direction and Support

Address Lafayette Elementary School's Work Order Backlog (DGS)

The District has sought to improve its delivery of quality service improvements to school work orders but this remains problematic to many schools across the District, including Lafayette Elementary School (LES). According to DGS' Public Work Order Dashboard¹⁴, as of this March 12, 2023, LES had 25 outstanding work orders. The dashboard also indicates many of the work orders have an estimated completion date in 2022. The timely completion of school related repairs is critical to the safe learning environments of students and enjoyable working environments of school staff. We strongly urge sufficient funding in DGS' FY24 budget to immediately repair LES' outstanding work orders and at work orders at all DCPS schools in the city. It is also recommended that improvements to the DGS dashboard are fully funded to show costs to the entire cycle of the work order management process, including initiation, in progress, estimated completion dates, work team assignment status, and priority levels. If completion dates are not met, the system should indicate that lag time in work order completion by days.

Strengthen the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC)

The ANC is pleased that the FY23 budget for the OANC¹⁵ was enhanced to improve the agency's operational functions, including additional Full Time Equivalents (FTE's) and one-time funding to procure critically needed hybrid meeting technology. The ANC strongly recommends that the Mayor continues her investments in the ANC program and would request additional investment in hybrid meeting technology for ANCs in the upcoming FY24 budget. Many ANCs are struggling with understanding the correct technology that is needed to make hybrid meetings successful, and the costs of this equipment is an additional burden to the ANC community. Additionally, the ANC recommends that salaries/stipends for Commissioners be made available.

¹⁴ https://dataviz1.dc.gov/t/OCTO/views/DGSPublicWorkOrderData/OpenWorkOrders?iframeSizedToWindow=true&%3Aembed=y&%3Atoolbar=no&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link

¹⁵ https://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/dx_anc_chapter_2023j.pdf