

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



ANC 3A Public Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2025

The meeting was held in hybrid format, by Zoom and in person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom, located at 3811 Porter Street NW.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Quorum Call: All five Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Gracemary Allen (3A02), Isaac Bowers (3A03), Claire McCafferty (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05). The Secretary confirmed that a quorum was participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

Verification of Notice: The Secretary confirmed that notice of the meeting and a copy of the proposed agenda had been shared 7 days in advance of the meeting as required, using the two methods previously approved by the Commission: the ANC 3A website and email including ANC 3A email list, local listservs and Nextdoor Neighbors e-network, which met the notice requirement.

Approval of Agenda: The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Official Votes:

Approve a Stipulated Liquor License for Acqua Bistecca at 15 Ridge Square. The Chair made a motion to vote to support a stipulated license. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

ANC 3A June Meeting Minutes. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

Quarterly Financial Report (QFR) for Q3 FY 2025. Commissioner McCafferty made a motion to vote on the QFR, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the QFR as presented.

ANC 3A Grant Guidelines. The Chair made a motion to vote on Grant Guidelines for ANC grants as presented, with the addition of a provision to specify a desired minimum grant of \$100 and maximum grant of \$2,500. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the guidelines.

Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, in hybrid format, in person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom and virtually by Zoom.

Adjournment

The Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

FULL SUMMARY

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

All five Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Gracemary Allen (3A02), Isaac Bowers (3A03), Claire McCafferty (3A04), and Ann Mladinov (3A05). The Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

The Secretary confirmed that notice of the meeting and a copy of the proposed agenda had been shared with the public 7 days in advance of the meeting as required, using the two methods previously approved by the Commission: the ANC 3A website and email including ANC 3A email list, local listservs and Nextdoor Neighbors e-network. That met the notice requirement.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

MPD Community Report

Captain Darren Haskis of the Second District MPD presented the crime report for the past 30 days in ANC 3A. He reported that there had been no reported violent crimes in the ANC but there had been 19 property crimes, an increase from 13 during the same 30 days in 2024. Among the property crimes, 5 had been thefts from auto (compared to 4 in 2024) and 14 had been general thefts including retail thefts (compared to 11 in 2024). For the year to date in ANC 3A, there had been 4 violent crimes; in 3 of those, the investigation had been closed with a suspect identified. The only violent crime not yet closed was a robbery on Rodman Street. The two assaults with a dangerous weapon occurred inside an apartment and had been closed with an arrest. One homicide had also been classified as a domestic incident and was closed with a warrant. For the year-to-date 118 property crimes had been reported in ANC 3A (compared to 102 in 2024). Captain Haskis reported that the largest number of reports were for retail crime in the commercial area at Newark Street, at and around the CVS. Thefts from auto in ANC 3A were down 45% from the previous year, and motor vehicle thefts (stolen autos) were down 50%. Captain Haskis noted that was a contrast to other ANCs including in Ward 3 where reports of motor vehicle thefts in 2025 had increased over the previous year.

The Chair asked if a police report had been filed about a wheel theft from a vehicle with out-of-state plates, parked in a McLean Gardens parking lot which was found with both front wheels missing. Captain Haskis said that no police report had been filed about an incident of that kind. He encouraged use of wheel locks to protect against wheel thefts. He also reported that he is in touch regularly with the police in Montgomery County because crime trends often cross the state boundary including along the Wisconsin Avenue corridor. They have continued to report thefts of air bags and catalytic converters from vehicles, notably near Rock Creek Park, especially overnight when perpetrators are unlikely to be seen.

Commissioner Bowers asked about a vehicle break-in reported on the 3500 block of Quebec Street. He said several other neighbors had mentioned similar experiences on the same street, and he would encourage them to file police reports. Captain Haskis said he would check on incidents in that area.

Request for Liquor License and Stipulated License for Acqua Bistecca restaurant at 10 Ridge Square

The Chair announced that the new restaurant Acqua Bistecca was planning to open soon in City Ridge, and had applied to the DC Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) for a Retailer's Class C alcoholic beverage license (ABRA-132936). The application shows interior seating capacity of 250 and Summer Garden with outdoor seating for 50, and also includes a request for an Alcohol Carry-out and Delivery Endorsement. At the meeting, the application was presented by Cori Tahara of The Mina Group, which owns and manages the restaurant, and Rob Wolcheski of Roadside Development, which manages City Ridge.

Ms. Tahara described the concept for Acqua Bistecca, as an easy-going neighborhood experience open for lunch and dinner as well as weekend brunch, serving an elevated menu, an Italian steakhouse evoking Venice and flavors that owner/founder Michael Mina has been perfecting at other Italian restaurants including Sorelli in Georgetown. The restaurant will share an elevator entrance (from the parking garage) with Equinox gym. The main window wall of the restaurant faces east, across from the street-level entrance to Wegman's, and the outdoor seating area will be a narrow space on the street level facing Wegman's. Tatte is to the north across the internal roadway known as Ridge Square.

Because the restaurant's planned opening would be in mid-September and the ABC Board would not be meeting or holding hearings in August, the restaurant was requesting a "stipulated license" that would allow the establishment to open with a full menu, including alcoholic beverages, on a temporary basis, while the case before the ABC Board was still in progress. When an establishment asks for a stipulated license, generally the ABC Board looks to the local ANC to take a position in support or opposition to the request, and makes its decision on the stipulated license based on the ANC vote.

Commissioner Mladinov explained that a stipulated license is only in effect through the time the ABC Board issues an order on the application for a long-term liquor license. The ABC Board still follows the full review process including a hearing to consider all public comments and protests against approval of the full liquor license, if there are any. Petitions and/or requests to appear before the ABC Board at a hearing on this case were due to be filed with ABCA by August 25. The Roll Call Hearing was scheduled on September 15 and the Protest Hearing was scheduled on October 29. The Commissioners provided information on how members of the community could file comments. During the discussion and in the week since the case was announced on the ANC 3A proposed agenda, the Commission did not receive any comments or concerns about the liquor license application. (Because of the timing of the filing dates, there would not be an occasion for the ANC to take a position on the overall case before the petition deadline, so any protests by individuals or groups in the community would hold maximum sway in an ABC Board's hearing.)

The Chair made a motion to vote on supporting Acqua Bistecca's request for a stipulated license. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to support the request.

Presentation on "RiverSmart Homes" Program to reduce stormwater run-off at DC residences

No one was present for the meeting from the DC Department of Energy and the Environment so the scheduled presentation had to be postponed. The Chair provided a brief description of the program and instructions on how to get more information. RiverSmart Homes offers information and assistance to property owners to reduce stormwater run-off by installing trees, native plant gardens, and rain barrels to conserve water and filter run-off, with the goal to avoid overflow of water and potentially polluting particulates into storm sewers, and protect from erosion and degradation of water quality the local streams and rivers. The program is available to for residential properties in the District including single family homes, duplexes, and multi-family homes with up to four units. See application at: <https://doee.dc.gov/service/riversmart-homes-application>

Commissioner Updates

The Commissioners noted that Talea Restaurant at 3228 Wisconsin Avenue NW in ANC3A02 had closed permanently. Residents mentioned reports of unpaid bills at that establishment and an investigation by the DC Attorney General.

The Commissioners also provided updates on several issues that had been discussed in recent ANC meetings: - ANC 3A Settlement Agreement with Top Level LLC (trade name Aligned) at 3715 Macomb Street (2nd floor) had been filed and accepted by the ABC Board for the addition of a proposed Safe Use Treatment endorsement to its license to operate a Medical Cannabis Retailer (ABCA-127009). After the draft settlement agreement was signed by ANC 3A and Top Level one at the ANC 3A June meeting, one provision was modified at ABCA's request to clarify that the limits in the agreement on quantities that can be consumed by an individual patron in any treatment session would not affect the quantity the shop can sell to an individual patron for off-premises use, which is already set by District law and regulation.

- Better Bus Network: WMATA had launched its “Better Bus” system revising all Metrobus route numbers, maps and schedules starting June 29, including changes to the Metrobus routes serving Wisconsin Avenue, Massachusetts Avenue, Nebraska Avenue, Cathedral Avenue, Woodley Road, Porter Street and other local corridors. WMATA also had committed to making several specific adjustments to the plans in ANC 3A:

- a) to add a sign “Except Metrobuses” on Massachusetts Avenue near Cathedral Avenue allowing left turns during weekday peak hours from eastbound Massachusetts onto northbound Wisconsin to accommodate the new weekday peak hour C85 route; to instruct Metrobus drivers on the C85 to be alert to pedestrians crossing Wisconsin in the crosswalk on the north side of Massachusetts; and to continue to monitor the traffic patterns and performance of the C85 to see if a different routing could serve the same purposes with increased safety.
- b) to eliminate all references to a bus stop at 39th Street and Klinge Place (D96 route) that DDOT and WMATA had agreed would not be installed, in response to comments from ANC 3A and constituents.

Maps and timetables of current Metrobus routes: <https://wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/index.cfm>
 New Trip Planner for WMATA services now available: <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/trip-planner/>

The Commissioners invited constituents to provide comments to the ANC and/or to WMATA on problems or suggested areas for improvement. Several meeting participants offered comments at the meeting. One resident observed that the replacement for the H2 and H4 cross-town buses is very difficult for anyone with mobility challenges, including people who rely on a wheelchair. Metrobuses had previously operated from Tenleytown on Wisconsin Avenue to Brookland, running east-west using Porter Street (H4) or Veazey and Van Ness (H2) to get to the Van Ness area. With the changes under the “Better Bus” system, the new cross-town buses operate east-west on Porter Street only, and there are other changes in the route through the Mount Pleasant neighborhood and also near the Washington Hospital Center. For a map of the new route including bus stops, see <https://www.wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/route-profile.cfm?route=C61>

Others commented on the unusual path of the C85 route, which winds from Pinehurst Circle in Barnaby Woods/Chevy Chase DC to Foggy Bottom Metro via Tenleytown, Wisconsin Avenue past the National Cathedral, Cathedral Avenue to New Mexico Avenue, through Glover Park, Reservoir Road to MacArthur, Canal to Georgetown, M Street and Pennsylvania Avenue to Foggy Bottom. Commissioner Mladinov mentioned that the weekday peak hour C85 route was designed to connect a large number of neighborhoods in Wards 2 and 3 to schools and Metro stops, to serve students and commuters. The C85 serves Alice Deal Middle School, Jackson-Reed High School, Hardy Middle School, Duke Ellington High School, and MacArthur High School, as well as both the Tenleytown and Foggy Bottom Metro stations. As noted above, WMATA has already expressed an interest in hearing how the C85 is working in the local community and whether there might be changes that would improve the usefulness of the service for local residents including students and workers.

Commissioner Mladinov mentioned that one of the projects that had been proposed for ANC 3A and the other ANCs in upper NW that have contracted with GoVocal for community engagement services this year is a web page to gather comments from constituents about how the new system of “Better Bus” stops and routes is working to meet their transit needs. That project is still being developed.

One resident asked when credit cards would be accepted on Metrobuses, as an alternative to using WMATA’s SmarTrip cards. Starting in late May, fare machines and fare gates on Metrorail where you see “Tap. Ride. Go.” are accepting credit cards and other contactless forms of payment (most major credit cards including Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover, debit cards, and mobile-enabled devices like Apple Pay, Google Pay, or Samsung Pay on a smart phone). WMATA had said it would be working on extending that system to Metrobuses in the future. One source had said that would be starting in October, but WMATA had not provided a firm date.

Several meeting participants mentioned that only SmarTrip cards allow free transfers from Metrorail to Metrobus, or recognize senior fares or other discounts. That capacity is not yet part of the “Tap. Ride. Go.” system.

- New Office of Planning (OP) Proposed Zoning Text Amendments. Commissioner Mladinov reported that on July 10 the DC Zoning Commission voted to open formal cases to review two proposed changes. text amendments:

a) ZC #25-11 to increase the maximum depth of a rear addition from the current 10 feet to 16 feet in residential zones designated “R” or “RF” (residential flats) as a matter of right and therefore not requiring a Special Exception and zoning review by the DC Bureau of Zoning adjustment (BZA) as is currently required for any rear addition extending greater than 10 feet from the rear façade line of nearby properties. (https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Home/ViewCase?case_id=25-11)

b) ZC #25-12 to correct inconsistencies or clarify terms in two dozen other zoning provisions as an “omnibus” text amendment (https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/Home/ViewCase?case_id=25-12).

Commissioner Mladinov also reported that the DC Council would be holding the second of the required two votes on the DC budget for FY2026 on July 28, after the first vote on July 14.

Commissioner Allen noted that the Council was discussing an amendment to “pause” implementation of Initiative 82 which called for bringing tipped workers under the same pay laws as other workers, so they are covered by the DC Minimum Wage. Commissioner McCafferty reported that one proposal would have called for a lower minimum wage, with a requirement for each restaurant to make up any difference between their employees’ tipped wages and the minimum wage. She noted that making up the difference between tipped wages and the minimum wage has been required under current law but a lot of restaurants don’t comply.

The Chair reported that the Council had agreed to strike from the FY2026 Budget Support Act the provisions to defer implementation of the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) and also the “net zero” requirements for carbon emissions, because those items did not have a public cost and therefore were not germane to the budget legislation. The Council had provided funds in the budget to carry out ranked choice voting in the 2026 District elections, which voters had approved in Initiative 83, but the Council did not provide funds for carrying out “open primaries” (allowing any DC voter regardless of party registration to vote in a District primary election for the candidates running to represent an individual party in the General Election).

Commissioner Mladinov reported that the Council was considering a separate proposal to approve District investment of approximately \$1 billion in the plans for redeveloping the site of RFK Stadium, and would have a hearing on the matter on July 29. A community survey using the GoVocal community engagement software had been posted by the local ANCs to gather views on the RFK proposal prior to that hearing www.ancengage.govocal.com

Community Announcements

Kendall Gibson of the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) announced that she would be holding office hours on Friday, July 20, from 3:30 to 5 pm at the Tenley Library, to hear from constituents about any situation with DC services that they are trying to get addressed. She provided her email as well: kendallgibson1@dc.gov

Jason Millison, Director of Community Relations for American University, reported that on July 21 AU would be hosting a volleyball camp with college coaches to work with players ages 5-15. He also reported that a “tiny concert” would be held on August 29 at the AU Amphitheatre, and the Fall Movie Night for the community would be held in September.

The Chair asked if AU had been working with DDOT on the repeated failure of traffic signals at Ward Circle, and whether AU had been seeing correspondence from community members about the problem, which has a major impact on traffic and traffic safety in the community including AU students and others using that intersection. Mr. Miller asked the ANC to share with him any correspondence of that type.

Kendall Gibson provided a direct line to DDOT to report problems with traffic signals: 202-671-3368. She said that generally there is about a one-minute hold on that line and then the caller is asked to give the location of the intersection in question. She said DDOT would respond immediately to that kind of problem.

Open Forum

Constituent David White asked if the ANC could look into the “streatery” outside Raku on Wisconsin Avenue. He commented that it seemed like the restaurant was not using the street space, though the barriers and tables are still in place. A similar comment had been raised earlier in the spring when DDOT announced proposed new Streatery Guidelines. Those guidelines would have prohibited streateries on Wisconsin Avenue where parking signs are posted allowing parking at off-peak hours, including on that block of Wisconsin. Those new guidelines had been expected to go into effect by July. The Chair checked the DDOT website and the guidelines do contain that prohibition for the nearby streateries on Wisconsin, but the deadline for establishments to get “Debris Removal Assistance” is October 1, to help remove the barriers around existing streateries that will no longer be used, and all the current streatery permits will expire on November 1. The only existing streateries in ANC 3A that could continue to be used under the new rules would be on Macomb Street, serving Cactus Cantina and 2 Amys. It is be up to those restaurants if they want to continue to use that streatery space.

Commissioner Bowers said he would check with those restaurants about their plans. Restaurants are directed to email DDOT if they are not interested in using a streatery in front of their establishment.

David White also asked if the Washington Ballet had shared any updates on their plans for renovations at their building at 3315 Wisconsin Avenue NW. The Chair said the ANC had not been informed of any changes in their plans but they could depend on fundraising or related considerations.

Administrative Matters

1. ANC 3A Grant Guidelines: Commissioner Mladinov presented a draft of guidelines for ANC 3A to use in reviewing and approving applications for grants made by the Commission, within the framework of District laws and guidance from the Office of ANCs (OANC) covering ANC grantmaking. By law, an ANC is allowed to make grants to public purpose non-profit organizations to support local projects designed to benefit the community.

Commissioner Mladinov explained that in January 2023 when ANC 3A was first formed, the Commission did not yet have any funds and had to concentrate on using the District allotments to take care of basic responsibilities so it was not able to offer grants. The ANC 3A budget approved during the first two years, did not provide funds for grants. In its third year, FY 2025, the ANC 3A budget provided \$7,500 for grants but the Commission did not have official guidelines to assist potential applicants to make a grant request or for Commissioners to review grant applications. Therefore, through July 2025, ANC 3A had not given any grants. But with the increased amount of funds in the ANC 3A bank account, a line item for grants in the budget, and inquiries from community organizations about prospects for receiving ANC grants, the Commission has the opportunity to begin to consider applications, and it would important to have grant guidelines in place.

The Commission discussed the draft guidelines and invited questions and comments from meeting participants. Commissioner Bowers proposed adopting a maximum of \$2,500 and a minimum of \$500 as standard amounts for an ANC 3A grant, which could be waived by vote of the Commission. There was also a question of whether all grant applications would have to follow the OANC form posted online or whether the ANC could use its own grant application form. OANC had indicated that all applicants would have to submit the online application form, so Commissioner Mladinov said she would check the details of that policy.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the grant guidelines as presented, with the additional provision about a suggested maximum and minimum amount for a grant. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted

5-0 to approve. Commissioner McCafferty offered to be the primary contact for grant applicants and to make an initial review of grant applications, working with the Treasurer.

2. June Meeting Minutes: The Secretary, Commissioner Mladinov, had prepared and circulated draft minutes of the June meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the minutes as presented, with the proviso that the Secretary would be allowed to make technical corrections in the minutes as needed.

3. Monthly Financial Report: The Treasurer, Commissioner Gracemary Allen, read the June financial report:

ANC 3A June Financial Report

Opening Balance (June 1): \$32,725.59

- Income: \$3,305.96 District quarterly allotment
- Outgoing
 - Cash Withdrawals: None
 - Expenditures: None
 - Bank Fees: None (Monthly Fee waived)

Ending Balance (June 30): \$36,031.55

4. Quarterly Financial Report for Q3 FY 2025:

Treasurer Gracemary Allen presented the Third Quarter Financial Report. Commissioner McCafferty made a motion to vote on the Quarterly Financial Report. The motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the report as presented.

The Chair announced that there would be no ANC 3A meeting in August. The next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, in hybrid format, in person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom and virtually by Zoom.

The Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 5 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on September 16, 2025, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

Attested by Commissioner Ann Lane Mladinov

Ann Lane Mladinov