

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



ANC 3A Minutes of Public Meeting December 16, 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 7:10 pm.

Quorum Call: Three Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01) and Ann Mladinov (3A05) in person and Gracemary Allen (3A02) by Zoom. Commissioner Isaac Bowers (3A03) arrived at 7:30 pm. Commissioner Claire McCafferty (3A04) was not able to participate. 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 3-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Official Votes:

Resolution to Support 2-Year Extension of Zoning Approval for Washington Ballet Modernization Project at 3515 Wisconsin Avenue NW (BZA Case 20970A). The Chair made a motion to vote on the request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the resolution.

Resolution to Support Acqua Bistecca Request for Stipulated Entertainment Endorsement to allow live music, dancing, and cover charge at the restaurant at 14 Ridge Square NW (ABRA-132936). The Chair made a motion to vote on the request. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the resolution.

Resolution to Oppose Provisions in Proposed Bill B26-0465 that would change the laws governing special elections to fill ANC vacancies by allowing only the remaining Commissioners, not constituents, to vote when more than one candidate is running, and also waive the requirement for a quorum for such a vote. The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the resolution.

Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (January 1, 2025-December 31, 2026) www.anc3a.org

3A01	3A02	3A03	3A04	3A05
Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis	Gracemary Allen	Isaac Bowers	Claire McCafferty	Ann Lane Mladinov

FULL SUMMARY

Chair Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Difficulties with the meeting audio and video took a few minutes to resolve and then the meeting resumed.

Three Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01) and Ann Mladinov (3A05) in person and Gracemary Allen (3A02) by Zoom. Commissioner Isaac Bowers (3A03) was on his way. Commissioner Claire McCafferty (3A04) was not able to participate. The Secretary, Ann Mladinov, confirmed that a quorum was participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

The Secretary confirmed that notice of the meeting and 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.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed meeting agenda, noting a few changes from the proposed agenda posted 7 days in advance. A planned presentation by the DC Preservation League on a grant request had been canceled and two items had been added: Washington Ballet's request for ANC support for a 2-year extension of zoning approval for modernization of its headquarters at 3515 Wisconsin Avenue, and Acqua Bistecca's request for ANC support for a stipulated entertainment endorsement at the restaurant at 14 Ridge Square. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 3-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

MPD Police Report

Three representatives of the MPD Second District participated in the meeting: Commander Tatjana Savoy, Captain Darren Haskis (Sector 1 and 2), and Lt. John Merzig, head of 2D's Crime Suppression Team. Captain Haskis reported on reported crime in ANC 3A in the previous 30 days. There had been no reports of violent crime in the ANC area. He said the last violent crime that was not domestic in nature in ANC 3A had been reported in August at the McDonald's on Wisconsin Avenue at Van Ness Street, which had been closed with an arrest. There had been no reported burglaries, 3 thefts from auto, 17 general thefts predominantly at the CVS on Newark Street and Wegmans at City Ridge, and 2 motor vehicles reported stolen (one in the 4300 Massachusetts Avenue that was recovered the same day in the First District and one that had been parked in a Pepco work zone in the 3800 block of Massachusetts Avenue and was believed to have been towed).

Commander Savoy opened the discussion of how MPD in the Second District is working with federal partners. She asked Lt. Merzig to describe his experiences, since in his position leading 2D's crime suppression unit, he is tasked as the 2D representative on the Joint Federal Task Force. He said that 15-20 federal partners had been detailed to work with 2D, and he was attaching federal agents to each MPD officer, so instead of having to send 2 MPD officers in a car to be able to respond to an incident safely, now an MPD officer could go with 2 or 3 federal agents, providing more coverage and greater ability to deal with crime threats. He said they mostly are addressing robberies, guns, and violent crime. With that assistance, he said MPD was able to close more crimes and accomplish that more quickly. He also noted that with National Guard patrolling in the area, MPD could get a call about an incident and post a "lookout" about the suspect, National Guard members who saw someone matching the description could report that to MPD, and it could close the case. Lt. Merzig said MPD was doing the same things it usually would, but he saw the federal agencies as a "force multiplier," putting more eyes and ears in the community. He subsequently added that MPD is well below the level of officers needed, and he would be happy if the number of MPD officers were higher, to fill local law enforcement needs without relying on federal agents for help.

The Chair asked about the announcement that after the November 26 shooting of two West Virginia National Guard members on duty near Farragut Square, there would be an attachment of MPD officers to each National Guard member or group working in the District. Lt. Merzig said that was been temporary, in response to the shooting. Maybe for two weeks, MPD detailed an officer to walk around with them, so it was not drawing on MPD staff but that was not continuing.

Commissioner Mladinov asked about what MPD 2D was doing with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Lt. Merzig said ICE is in the area but not working with MPD and not embedded with MPD. When MPD arrests someone for violating DC law, MPD treats a case just as it usually would, transporting the person to MPD 2D, processing them, and detaining them at MPD's facilities. When ICE detains someone, the person is taken to ICE detention facilities outside of the District. ICE has to do its own investigations. He explained that ICE is on the same radio frequency as MPD so ICE may hear a report such as about an MPD traffic stop and go to that location, but ICE has to do its own investigations. Once an individual is in MPD custody, MPD doesn't cooperate with ICE or give them information.

Commissioner Isaac Bowers (3A03) arrived at the meeting at 7:30 pm. On behalf of a constituent, he asked MPD about the increase in the number of thick-tired, oversized e-bikes, that have been operating on Wisconsin Avenue and other local streets, doing wheelies and weaving in and out of traffic. Captain Haskis said those vehicles are required to abide by all District laws for operating on the streets. He asked everyone to report to him at darren.haskis@dc.gov if they see riders operating recklessly, violating DC laws, or almost hitting people. Lt. Merzig said that he had observed and tried to apprehend several of these vehicles, but they are hard to keep up with and MPD would not pursue them for safety reasons. Other meeting participants offered observations and concerns about the speed and risk-taking behavior.

Commander Savoy concluded by saying there had been a lot of conversation about her supervisor, DC Chief of Police Pamela Smith, and Commander Savoy wanted to make clear that she had never been directed or pressured to change crime statistics or downgrade a statistic. She asked constituents to be in touch with her if they have questions or concerns about police reports or crime statistics tatjana.savoy@dc.gov

Report of Local Organizations

Kendall Jackson from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) announced that the DC Public School lottery was open for the 2026-2027 school year. Families of a new student hoping to attend a DC public or public charter school can file a single application to apply to up to 12 schools. The lottery system is mostly for applying to out-of-boundary schools, but it is also required for new students in PreK3 and PreK4 applying for their in-boundary school or for a dual language strand in their in-boundary school for PreK3 through Grade 5. For the application and more information, see <https://www.myschooldc.org/>

Ms. Jackson also introduced Andrew Shapiro, MOCRS new Business Liaison for Wards 1-4, who will be responsible for working with businesses in the area. He spoke briefly about his background, living in the District for close to 25 years and working in business, and said he hopes to coordinate with the community and make things easier for ANCs and businesses.

Santiago Mendoza of Ward 3 Councilmember Matt Frumin's office announced the Councilmember's next Workday in the Ward would be Thursday, December 18, at Point Chaud in Glover Park. He also reported on several legislative initiatives the Councilmember was working on:

- a bill that had been voted on for its first reading that day which would require the DC Department of Human Services to issue microchip benefit cards instead of cards that require a swipe device, to make the card information much harder to steal.
- a one-year extension of the DC Flex rent subsidy program, which had not yet gone to a first vote

- The Library e-book Pricing Fairness bill was the subject of a hearing on Thursday, December 18 in the Councilmember’s Committee on Human Services. In response to publishers charging more for e-books than printed books and restricting the number of “loans” of e-books, the bill would require reductions in prices for e-books purchased by libraries, as part of a nation-wide push to limit prices and expand digital access to books.

Jason Millison of American University had been participating earlier in the meeting and the Chair read his announcements of AU men’s and women’s basketball games later in December, the AU holiday break from December 20-January 2, and the AU campus-wide MLK Day of Service on Monday, January 19.

Resolution RE Washington Ballet Request for 2-Year Extension for Project at 3515 Wisconsin Ave

The Washington Ballet represented by Paul Tummonds presented its request for ANC support for its recent application to the DC Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA), asking for a 2-year extension of the approval for the planned renovation project of its historic headquarters at the corner of Wisconsin Avenue and Porter Street. The BZA granted its initial approval BZA Case No. 20970 in December 2023, with ANC support, but the BZA order in that case was expiring on December 20, 2025. On December 8, the BZA opened a 30-day comment period on the request (BZA 20970A), to allow for ANC and other public review.

Mr. Tummonds explained that the extension was needed to allow the Washington Ballet more time to conduct its capital fundraising campaign to support the project. He noted that the BZA is receiving a lot of applications for extensions, due to current economic conditions. The Chair asked if there might be any changes in the traffic study conducted in connection with the original application, noting that the Sidwell Friends Lower School would be relocating to 3825 Wisconsin Avenue, a few blocks north of the Washington Ballet headquarters, which could create some traffic changes. Commissioner Mladinov also mentioned that Metrobus routes and bus stops have changed since the original zoning application so there are more buses on Porter Street and different buses operating on Wisconsin Avenue. She also commented that the economic conditions had raised costs which would affect other aspects of the project. Mr. Tummonds offered that it would make sense for the applicants to look at changes in traffic and come back to the ANC to talk about what they find.

The Chair made a motion vote on a resolution supporting the requested extension. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the resolution to submit to the BZA.

Resolution on Request of Acqua Bistecca at City Ridge for Stipulated Entertainment Endorsement

Cam Nixon made a presentation of the application in ABRA-132936 for a Substantial Change in the liquor license of the restaurant Acqua Bistecca, which opened in September at 14 Ridge Square. The establishment was asking to add an Entertainment Endorsement to its liquor license to allow live entertainment, dancing by patrons, and a cover charge, which would apply indoors and on the summer garden through the full hours allowed for other services (7 days a week, all day through 2 am).

Because the Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis (ABC) Board would be on recess through the remainder of December and not holding hearings and votes during holidays, the establishment was requesting ANC support for a “stipulated” change to allow the proposed entertainment endorsement to be put into effect temporarily, during the hours approved as part of the original liquor license in July, until the ABC Board had gathered all comments. Protest petitions on the permanent change to the license were due to ABRA on January 26, with a Roll Call Hearing scheduled on February 17. A stipulated license can remain in place until the ABC Board determines if there are any protests or need for a hearing.

Mr. Nixon said that though the application asked for an entertainment endorsement to allow live entertainment, dancing by patrons, and cover charges, the establishment was not planning dancing or

cover charges. It was anticipating a small jazz band or disc jockey for background music during dinner hours, primarily on Fridays and Saturdays. He explained that the restaurant had been playing just recorded music, and nothing that could be heard outside the premises. With the stipulated license, he said entertainment could be offered over the holidays, all indoors, and he added that the restaurant was not planning any New Year's Eve events or any late night/early morning entertainment.

The Chair asked if Acqua Bistecca had done any outreach about its request. He had heard from Rob Wolcheski of Roadway, who manages the City Ridge development, and they support Acqua Bistecca's request for an entertainment endorsement. Mr. Mixon said the restaurant had not gotten any concerns from surrounding operations and the proposed entertainment would not create any disturbance for them.

Commissioner Bowers clarified that Acqua Bistecca is making two separate requests of the ANC:

- support for the stipulated Entertainment Endorsement, which had to be decided in December
- support for the permanent Entertainment Endorsement, which could be decided in January

The Chair set out two options: The ANC could vote on the overall endorsement at the January public meeting, or vote on both at the December meeting. Commissioner Bowers suggested that voting separately on the stipulated endorsement would allow for a "trial period" to see how the change would work in the first weeks, in case any concerns arise. Commissioner Mladinov also noted that holding a vote on the permanent endorsement would follow the ANC's usual practice of hearing a presentation about an application at one meeting and taking a vote at the following meeting, with time to receive comments between meetings. She also commented that when a restaurant requests an entertainment endorsement, the ANC usually considers a Settlement Agreement with the establishment, not necessarily because problems are anticipated with the current applicant but because the endorsement would convey with the license, if a different restaurant/licensed establishment occupied that location in the future.

The Chair made a motion to vote on a resolution to support the request for a stipulated Entertainment Endorsement. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the resolution.

Discussion and Vote on Proposed Bill B26-0465 to change the method of filling vacant ANC seats

DC At-Large Councilmember Anita Bonds introduced legislation in November 2025 which would transfer responsibility for special elections of ANC Commissioners from the Office of ANCs (OANC) to the DC Board of Elections, and add new provisions including that if more than one candidate registers to run for an open seat on the ANC, the other Commissioners on the ANC would select the new Commissioner themselves by vote at an ANC public meeting, instead of having a vote of constituents in the Single Member District, and in addition the other Commissioners could make the selection of a new Commissioner even if there is not a quorum at the public meeting at which the vote is taken. The bill would also clarify the date an ANC seat is officially considered open. Councilmember Bonds had held a hearing on the proposed bill on December 5, and the record was open for additional comments through December 19.

Commissioner Allen commented that some of the provisions did not seem "democratic." Commissioner Bowers asked if there was any information on cost savings that might be anticipated, an expedited timetable for conducting elections, the number of people who generally vote in special elections, or other details to back up the proposal. Commissioner Mladinov commented that information of that kind had not been provided with the legislation, and there had not been widespread participation in the hearing on December 5, but the most striking changes seemed terribly undemocratic.

Commissioner Mladinov made a motion to vote on a resolution to oppose the provision to have sitting Commissioners to decide on a Commissioner to fill a vacant ANC seat, and also the provision to waive the quorum requirement for that vote so as few as two Commissioners could make that decision. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the resolution to submit to the DC Council.

Commissioner Updates

- The Chair reported that the DC Preservation League had asked to postpone its planned presentation of a request for an ANC grant. (The grant had been intended to help pay for local interviews about the impacts of historic districts, including the Cleveland Park Historic District which is partly in ANC 3A.) He explained that the ANC did not have any idea of another possible time for hearing from the Preservation League, but would let the community know. Any presentation would be included in the proposed ANC public meeting agenda.
- Commissioner Bowers provided an update on the ANC 3A grant to the Friends of Hearst Park to support “vertical mulching” of the heritage trees at the park. The ANC had approved a grant of \$5,000 at its November public meeting and the ANC check had been issued on December 5. He had checked with Cory Levine of the Friends group, who would be in touch about progress on the work. The Treasurer, Gracemary Allen, was also checking with OANC on whether the grant recipient would need to submit an interim report or if the full grant could be covered in the ANC Quarterly Report for the period ending on December 31, which would probably be due to OANC in mid-February.
- The Chair reported on a recent meeting with DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) about planning construction projects in Ward 3. The report included one project in ANC 3A, at the Newark Street playground. In that project, the 3 existing tennis courts would be removed and replaced with a new tennis court plus 8 new pickleball courts. The work is already planned for the spring. The Chair invited questions and comments. There was one comment about how far the sound of pickleball games travels.
- Commissioner Mladinov provided an update on the Text Amendment ZC 25-13, developed by the DC Office of Planning (OP) to “upzone” the Wisconsin Avenue corridor from Rodman Street north to Friendship Heights/Western Avenue, which was the subject of a 5-hour Zoning Commission hearing on December 11. She had participated and presented the ANC 3A concerns about the proposal, which were adopted at the November ANC 3A public meeting. Other witnesses and members of the Zoning Commission had also shared similar questions and concerns. At the end of the hearing, the Zoning Commission directed OP staff to develop additional information including how the proposed changes would affect the “by right” building densities compared to current zoning, with potentially more details on what the requirements would be for affordable housing on individual parcels and how other details of the proposal would work. The Zoning Commission set April 20 as the due date for the additional information, in time to be discussed at a Zoning Commission meeting on April 30.

The proposed text amendment would allow higher buildings and greater building density as a matter of right on all the properties along the affected blocks of Wisconsin Avenue, with requirements for affordable housing under the District’s IZ+ program but not at the level that housing equity advocates urged, no provision for design review other than the DC Department of Building internal procedures (which are not public), and little possibility of ANC participating in negotiating community amenities as would be allowed with a Planned Unit Development (PUD).

- Commissioner Mladinov reported that the DC Department of Public Works (DPW) had completed its first leaf collection in ANC 3A (as part of DPW’s “Area 3C”), and was planning a second leaf collection and pick-up of holiday trees in January.
- The agenda also included a reminder that the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) was asking for public input for developing its new Strategic Bikeways Plan, including comments on bicycle transportation needs, key gaps in the bicycle network, and suggestions of potential projects. Comments were due by December 31. See <https://bikelanes.ddot.dc.gov/pages/strategicbikeplan>

Open Forum

There were no other comments.

Administrative Matters

1. November Meeting Minutes: The Secretary had prepared and circulated draft minutes of the November meeting. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes, the motion was seconded, and the Commission voted 4-0 to approve the minutes as presented, with the proviso that the Secretary would be allowed to make technical corrections in the minutes as needed.

2. Monthly Financial Report: The Treasurer, Commissioner Gracemary Allen, read the November financial report:

ANC 3A November Financial Report

Opening Balance (November 1): \$35,044.57

- Income: None

- Outgoing

Cash Withdrawals: None

Expenditures: None

Bank Fees: None

Ending Balance (November 30): \$35,044.57

The Chair reported that the final ANC 3A Annual Report for the preceding 12 months had been posted on the ANC website www.anc3a.org

He also said that the ANC would be considering plans for future meetings and would have to enter a new contract for meeting space. He would be contacting McLean Gardens about continuing to use the ballroom. Commissioner Bowers asked about the possibility of making a contract for more than one year, so the ANC would not have to explore new options or renegotiate every December. The Chair said that would probably be advisable at the beginning of a new 2-year ANC term, but he would not recommend entering a contract that would obligate a new Commission to continue using a particular location.

The Chair also commented that the ANC would be considering renewal of its contract for use of Go Vocal community engagement software, extending the current contract that a group of nearby ANCs entered in February 2025 at a cost of \$2,000 each. Commissioner Mladinov reported that she had participated in a Go Vocal training session that afternoon and the support staff is eager to work with the ANCs and make the services even more useful, including by allowing all Commissioners to create and launch their own projects on the platform. One of the obstacles to making more use of Go Vocal in the first year had been that there is a “learning curve” to get accustomed to how the system works and now to format questionnaires and present discussion topics.

The Chair said he had talked to representatives of AU at a recent meeting about possible opportunities for students to work with the ANC members on possible future projects on Go Vocal involving some design and formatting, to give them experience with a local organization. AU had said that there have been very few internship openings for students this year and they are eager to explore more possibilities.

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting would be January 20, 2026.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

These minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 5 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on January 20, 2026, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

Attested by Commissioner Ann Lane Mladinov 1-26-26

Ann Lane Mladinov