

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



### Resolution Regarding Draft Strategic Plan for the Office of ANCs

At the request of the DC Council, the Office of ANCs (OANC) has prepared a draft Strategic Plan issued for comment by ANCs District-wide, by March 4, 2024.

The draft Strategic Plan includes short-term and long-term goals and objectives for services provided by OANC to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and Commissioners, and priorities for action. The draft covers improvements to OANC's internal operations and also improvements to services designed to support operations of ANCs, enhance community engagement and public awareness.

In preparing the draft strategic plan, OANC staff has conducted an internal review and gotten input from ANCs and individual Commissioners. Gathering comments from ANCs will be the ultimate step before OANC finalizes the Strategic Plan for presentation to the Council.

We appreciate the thoughtful discussion in the draft of many functions and responsibilities of OANC in serving ANCs and Commissioners.

OANC begins by identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for OANC. Several possible additions would be possible in that analysis, beginning with devoted staff who have experience and commitment to their mission, and the familiarity and trust of ANCs, although OANC has a small staff, limited space for additional employees or supplies and equipment, and limited resources for expanding services or launching new initiatives. We also hope that OANC can get support for a less cumbersome and time-consuming process for major purchases, which is important when quick action is needed.

The availability of virtual technology has allowed additional outreach opportunities and training for ANCs and Commissioners, which is highly valuable and we hope can be expanded.

The increasing interest from the public in more consistency and professionalism in ANC operations can open avenues for OANC to support more effective coordination of elements such as acquiring website domains, web design, and archiving and making available official ANC documents.

With a growing number of complex issues important to ANCs District-wide, Commissioners have greater need and interest in communication and cooperation among ANCs, which creates chances for OANC to help with sharing information, templates, and resolutions, or developing and supporting "interest groups" among ANC Commissioners.

The growing importance of broad-based community engagement on public issues also opens opportunities for OANC to assist with communications software and support, to offer ANCs greater capacity for effective public outreach to the full range of constituents and stakeholders.

As a new ANC starting January 1, 2023, we especially appreciate the invaluable assistance of OANC in helping us launch the Commission, through the administrative, financial, and substantive challenges of the past year.

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**Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (January 1, 2023-December 31, 2024)** [www.anc3a.org](http://www.anc3a.org)

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Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis

Judy Havemann

Hans Miller

Jeremy Del Moral

Ann Lane Mladinov

One of the most important functions for ANC's is to provide advice to the Council and executive agencies on policies, programs, policies, and proposed projects. With the large turnover in Commissioners in recent years, many ANC's have a large proportion of new Commissioners. They begin their terms with the challenge of learning how to work with the District's legislative and executive bodies and the complex processes and programs they deal with. ANC Commissioners would benefit greatly from additional training and sources of information and support for working effectively with those organizations.

Training from agencies such as the Office of Zoning and ABCA is well developed and available year to year for Commissioners. Other agencies have processes and programs that also can be complicated and confusing but those agencies do not provide the same kind of solid training for ANC Commissioners. OANC may be able to help by encouraging agencies to provide more effective training on how they work and the avenues they offer for ANC interaction.

OANC could assist in a variety of ways, such as by offering to work with agency staff to design the statutorily required training on the role of ANC's, and by advising agencies in designing their own training to offer to ANC Commissioners.

There may also be opportunities for OANC to encourage agencies to give more timely notice to ANC's about agency actions, give serious consideration to ANC recommendations, explain agency decisions and reasoning, and otherwise meet the requirements of "great weight"; follow up on audits of agency compliance with "great weight" provisions; continue to track ANC problems with agencies failing to comply; prepare regular reports every year or every two years about agency interactions with ANC's and identify areas for improvement. OANC could potentially work with the agency liaisons and leadership to improve their understanding and approach to working with ANC's, when an agency has a particularly poor record of responding to ANC requests for information or assistance, reaching out to ANC's for information or perspectives, and respecting ANC recommendations.

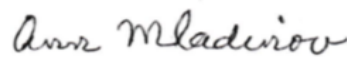
OANC could also provide examples or templates for agencies to report on how they are responding to ANC resolutions or how they are responding to constituents and ANC's' service requests. It would be a major break-through to get agencies to share information with ANC's about cases that are open, and when and how cases are addressed.

One major threat to any organization is adequacy of funding. We hope that with a sound Strategic Plan in place and continuing work to improve processes and services, OANC will be able to create an even stronger foundation for supporting ANC's and Commissioners and in turn to achieve more effective service to the people and the District as a whole.




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Chair




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Secretary

This resolution was approved by the Commission by a vote of 4 - 0 at a duly noticed meeting on February 20, 2024, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.) By the same vote, the Commission designated the Chair or his designee(s) to represent ANC 3A on this matter.