

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



### Minutes of ANC 3A Public Meeting May 13, 2025

The meeting was held in hybrid format, by Zoom and in person at McLean Gardens Ballroom.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**Quorum Call:** All five Commissioners were participating: Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis (3A01), Gracemary Allen (3A02), Isaac Bowers (3A03), and Claire McCafferty (3A04) all in person, and Ann Mladinov (3A05) participating by Zoom. The Secretary confirmed that there was a quorum 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, 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.

#### **Resolutions:**

*Comments on DDOT NOI 25-123-CSD proposing to allow buses on eastbound Massachusetts Avenue to turn left onto northbound Wisconsin Avenue during weekday peak hours, to accommodate the planned new C85 weekday peak hour Metrobus route as part of the WMATA's "Better Bus" network launching on June 29.* The Chair made a motion to vote on submitting a position to DDOT with suggestions for protecting safety of pedestrians and others using the roadways. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

*Resolution to express ANC 3A support to the DC Department of Parks and Recreation for Hearst Elementary School PTA end-of-school movie night on June 6.* The Chair made a motion to vote on the resolution. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve.

#### **Next Meeting**

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 17 in hybrid format, in person at the McLean Gardens Ballroom and virtually by Zoom.

#### **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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**Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (January 1, 2025-December 31, 2026)** [www.anc3a.org](http://www.anc3a.org)

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

## **FULL SUMMARY**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. The meeting was held in “hybrid” format, both in-person and virtual by Zoom.

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

The Chair called for confirmation that the notice requirement had been met. 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 via the two methods previously approved by the Commission: the ANC 3A website and email including ANC 3A email list, local listservs and Nextdoor Neighborhood e-network. That met the notice requirement.

The Chair made a motion to vote on the proposed agenda, with the addition of the announcement of an application for a Substantial Change to the license of Aligned Medical Cannabis Retailer at 3715 Macomb Street NW. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the agenda.

### **MPD Community Report**

Captain Haskis of MPD Second District reported on crime statistics in ANC 3A. In the past 30 days, there had been no violent crimes or burglaries, but an increase in the total number of property crimes compared to the previous year. That included a drop in thefts from autos and stolen autos, but retail thefts were up, focused in the Wisconsin Avenue corridor including the Giant and CVS on Newark Street. Captain Haskis said MPD was taking countermeasures there, in the hope of reducing those numbers. Year to date Captain Haskis said the number of reported property crimes in ANC 3A had gone up by 10, from 71 to 81, again focused in the retail corridor, while the number of violent crimes had gone down from 6 in 2024 to 4 in 2025. He said that MPD was putting its focus on the retail zone. He had been driving through the neighborhood and having other officers drive through McLean Gardens and City Ridge in particular at the border between the two properties, and they hadn’t seen anything of note there [following the community meeting the Chair had with MPD in that area to talk about illegal use of marijuana use.

The Commission had expected to hear a presentation about the DC Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE) “RiverSmart Homes” Program to help reduce stormwater run-off at DC residences. Since representatives of DOEE and RiverSmart were not present or visible on Zoom, the presentation had to be postponed to a later date.

### **Update on DC Proposed Budget for FY 2026 (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026)**

The Chair reported that the Mayor's proposed FY 2026 budget was not delivered to the DC Council on April 2 as originally scheduled and was still not in the hands of the Council, because of the uncertainty over the funds that will be available to the District in FY 2025. As a result, the Council budget hearings that were expected to start in April would have to be squeezed into a shortened review period in late May and June, in order for the Council to complete its work on the budget in July. The ANC had asked for the Mayor’s office to provide a speaker about the proposed budget and that invitation was still open.

### **DDOT proposal to allow buses to turn left from eastbound Massachusetts onto Wisconsin in peak hours**

On April 28, DDOT issued a Notification of Intent (NOI #25-123-CPD) proposing to add “Except Buses” to the existing sign “No Left Turn 7-9:30 AM 4-6:30 PM Monday-Friday” from eastbound Massachusetts Avenue onto northbound Wisconsin Avenue. The proposed change in signage was designed to give further support to WMATA’s “Better Bus” network that will go into effect on June 29, 2025. Allowing left turns during weekday peak hours would allow operation of the new “C85” weekday Metrobus route that is planned to run every 30 minutes during peak hours (5 buses in the morning, 5 buses in the afternoon). The route runs from Foggy Bottom through Georgetown to Canal Road, MacArthur High

School, Reservoir Road, Glover Park, New Mexico Avenue, Cathedral Avenue in ANC 3A to Massachusetts Avenue and north on Wisconsin Avenue to Tenleytown Metro, Jackson-Reed High School, and northeast to upper Chevy Chase DC. DDOT asked for comments by June 10, 2025.

Commissioners did not oppose the bus route but wanted to ensure the change in traffic patterns could be made safely. Several Commissioners raised concerns about challenges at the intersection of Massachusetts and Wisconsin. The Chair mentioned a fatality in recent years of a pedestrian using the crosswalk along the west side of Wisconsin Avenue across Cathedral Avenue. Commissioner Allen noted that many vehicles currently make an illegal left turn from Massachusetts on Wisconsin during peak hours, and having buses make that turn could encourage other vehicles to do the same. The Chair expressed concern about risks for pedestrians crossing Wisconsin Avenue on the north side of Massachusetts Avenue, who would not be expecting vehicles to make left turns across their path during peak hours. Several people suggested creating a leading WALK signal for that crosswalk, to allow pedestrians to cross before the traffic signal would turn green. Constituent David White noted that the current signal at that intersection is set to allow a leading WALK for pedestrians crossing Wisconsin on the south side of Massachusetts and then allowing vehicles to proceed after pedestrians have had time to get safely across the street. Others asked if DDOT could install a left turn signal for eastbound Massachusetts Avenue. Additional questions involved whether DDOT could adjust the sign to say “Except Metrobuses” so other buses such as school buses, tour buses, or other charter buses would not also be able to make the same left turn during peak hours. Especially when the block of Massachusetts between Cathedral and Wisconsin is very short, there would not be sufficient queuing space to accommodate multiple buses trying to make a left turn at that location, when peak hour traffic is already congested. Commissioner McCafferty noted that the C85 bus route will offer valuable service, and not very many Metrobuses would be making a left turn each day at that intersection, but it would be helpful if the ANC could make those recommendations to DDOT. The Chair made a motion to vote on sending a letter to DDOT offering the suggestions that had been mentioned. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve sending the letter with those points. Commissioner Mladinov agreed to prepare the letter presenting the suggestions for possible adjustments to improve safety.

#### **Request to add Safe Use Treatment Facility at Medical Cannabis Retailer at 3715 Macomb Street**

In early May, the DC Alcoholic Beverage and Cannabis Administration (ABCA) had sent ANC 3A a new application submitted by Top Level LLC for a Substantial Change to its 2024 license (ABCA-127009) to operate a Medical Cannabis Retailer on the second floor above Two Amys. The new request is to add an endorsement to run a “Safe Use Treatment Facility” that would allow on-site consumption of medical cannabis products. Hours would be the same as for the retail sales.

Commissioner Allen asked what a Safe Use Treatment facility would involve. The Chair said the definition was not clear. Most discussions of “Safe Use Treatment” are related to use of illegal drugs (for example, heroin, by providing users with fresh needles and other paraphernalia they need to avoid infection, contamination of the products, or overdose). He had contacted ABCA for further explanation of the Safe Use Treatment endorsement for Medical Cannabis Retailers, and the lawyers referred him to the DC Council which had adopted the legal provision creating this type of endorsement. There was not much information about the purpose of the provision. It appeared to allow on-premises consumption of medical cannabis products sold by a licensed retailer, with music, and potentially food or beverages also offered to patrons. All patrons would have to be registered patients who were either prescribed medical marijuana by a physician or self-certified as needing medical marijuana.

The Chair noted that it was not clear what sort of protection a Medical Cannabis Retailer or customers would have from federal enforcement of laws against consumption of marijuana. The recent federal appointee as DC’s District Attorney had stated publicly that he wanted to close the Medical Cannabis Retailer in Palisades for being within 1000 feet of a school, though the DC law allows a Medical Cannabis Retailer to operate beyond 400 feet of a Kindergarten, primary or secondary school.

Commissioner Allen noted that Top Level had suggested it would not allow smoking on the premises of the Medical Cannabis Retail operation in ANC 3A, but only offer edible products.

The Chair reported that the ABCA lawyer had mentioned a settlement agreement with the ANC could specify that no smoking would be allowed, and could also restrict the quantity of a product that could be consumed within a specified period of time on the premises. Other Commissioners agreed it could be beneficial to provide a limit to avoid having a patron leave the facility with some degree of impairment.

Commissioner Allen asked if there were any other examples of Safe Use Treatment Facilities in the District. Commissioner Mladinov said she had found a settlement agreement negotiated by ANC 2B on Dupont Circle in 2024 with an establishment that was requesting an endorsement for a Safe Use Treatment facility and she could share the provisions the ANC and the establishment had approved. There are some legal limitations on what a settlement agreement can cover, as ANC 3A had found when it negotiated the initial Settlement Agreement with Top Level in early 2024 covering establishment of the Medical Cannabis Retailer. The ANC concerns covered in the settlement agreement have to relate to ensuring the “peace, order, and quiet” of the community (such as noise, odor, fire safety, other safety considerations). Commissioner Bowers asked if there were other second floor tenants in adjoining spaces who could be affected by activities at the Aligned Medical Cannabis Retailer. The Chair said that the stair to Aligned only accesses their shop, though he believed there were offices on the second level for one or both of the adjoining restaurants, Cactus Cantina and Two Amys. (Two Amys also has a second floor dining area.) There is parking and a patio in the back of the property, but Aligned does not have access/egress through the alley.

The Chair noted that at that time of the initial application, Top Level was applying for a Home Delivery endorsement and ANC 3A proposed terms that had been negotiated for home delivery in another ANC. Top Level didn’t have any specific plans for offering delivery but it agreed to the provisions the ANC proposed, with only minor changes. In that instance, the ANC put forward some proposed provisions it would like to pursue with Top Level and then provided that if the ANC could not reach a settlement agreement by the protest deadline, then the ANC would file a protest. That would allow negotiations to continue and when the settlement agreement was accepted by both the ANC and Top Level, then the protest could be withdrawn.

The Chair explained that usually ANC 3A would have a presentation on an application at one meeting and invite public comments, and then take an official vote on an official position at a subsequent meeting. Since a presentation by the applicant couldn’t be scheduled until the ANC 3A public meeting on June 17 and ABCA is requesting protests and petitions to participate in the case by June 23, the ANC would either have to schedule a separate date to take a vote at a special meeting or hear the presentation by Top Level and also take a vote on an official position at the June 17 meeting. Commissioner Bowers said he would invite Top Level to make a presentation at the ANC 3A June meeting.

### **Commissioner Updates**

- **Proposed Bus Stop on 39<sup>th</sup> Street:** Commissioner Mladinov reported that DDOT had communicated in writing that it accepted the recommendations of ANC 3A and numerous residents and was not going ahead with its proposal (NOI# 25-27-CPD) to install a new bus stop on 39<sup>th</sup> Street NW just south of Klinge Place NW, on the planned D96 Metrobus, as part of the Better Bus network. The proposed bus stop would have created safety risks and eliminated all the curbside parking and loading/unloading spaces serving the private home at that location. On April 30 DDOT shared that decision by letter to ANC 3A. DDOT is not proposing a new Metrobus stop on 39<sup>th</sup> Street or anywhere else in ANC 3A.

- **Better Bus Network:** The Chair reported he attended the WMATA Better Bus briefing for ANCs on May 10. WMATA has posted maps and timetables for the new “Better Bus” Metrobus routes at: <https://wmata.com/initiatives/plans/Better-Bus/index.cfm> The Trip Planner for services after June 29 is at: <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/trip-planner/> WMATA is reaching out to riders and prospective

riders, and also working with Google Maps and other way-finding systems to ensure that they have the updated information on bus services.

He also mentioned that new signs had already been installed at some Metrobus stops. A thin blue band across the top of the sign lists the routes that formerly served the particular stop, such as N2/N6, and then a large red band shows the new route name. The sign will also say if the route operates throughout the 24 hours, and then some geographic names to indicate where the route goes.

WMATA will be introducing its system-wide reconfiguration of bus routes, numbers, route maps and schedules for all Metrobus services on June 29 as part of the “Better Bus” redesign approved by the WMATA Board in November 2024. This will include changes to the Metrobus routes serving Wisconsin Avenue, Porter Street, Massachusetts Avenue, Cathedral Avenue, Nebraska Avenue, and Woodley Road. The Chair also explained that Metrobus routes starting with “C” in the District run basically cross-town. Routes starting with “D” run to and from downtown DC. Routes that start with “A” serve Arlington and Alexandria. “F” is Fairfax City, Fairfax County and Falls Church, “M” Montgomery County, and “P” Prince George’s County.

#### - Relocation of Metrobus stop on Wisconsin Avenue at Porter Street

The Chair reported on his conversation with WMATA Board member for DC Tracy Hadden Loh at the WMATA May 10 meeting on the Better Bus system, about concerns about the Metrobus stop that is now directly in front of the entrance to the Crestview condominiums at 3601 Wisconsin Avenue NW, just north of Porter Street. Last year DDOT moved the bus stop from south of Porter Street next to the Washington Ballet to the current location. Some constituents had recommended moving the bus stop closer to Quebec Street, where there had previously been a bus stop. The Chair said Ms. Loh explained that WMATA had already reviewed the suggested alternative location on Wisconsin near Quebec Street, where there had previously been a Metrobus stop, as well as the original location next to the Washington Ballet, but she offered to get WMATA and DDOT to review the new suggestion of relocating the bus stop to Wisconsin Avenue just north of Idaho Avenue.

Abigail Demopoulos, resident at the Crestview, thanked the ANC and the Chair for continuing to pursue this matter, and noted that with the planned changes under the “Better Bus” system, which will mean increased bus operations on Porter Street and over the years more bus service on Wisconsin Avenue, it will be important for DDOT to consider additional changes to improve safety and traffic operations at the intersection of Porter and Wisconsin. Problems are already created by vehicles stopping in the driving lanes on Porter outside the Washington Ballet, and also moving at high speeds to try to clear the intersection, without regard to approaching vehicles or pedestrians trying to cross from other directions.

#### - Ward 3 Student Safety

Commissioner Bowers reported on the Ward 3 Student Safety Conversation he attended on May 8 at the Cleveland Park Library, hosted by DCPS. The discussion included WMATA which is working to encourage use of public transit to get to and from school, using the free passes available to students. Other points related to the benefit of increasing crossing guards at schools, and challenges of not having a school nurse available in each school through the day to give ongoing assistance to students, as DCPS has shifted to rotating nurses among multiple schools as a cost-saving measure. Students speakers also participated in the conversation, talking about the increase over the past 5 years in students not feeling safe in school, including concerns with bullying and drug use at schools. The Chair noted a parallel to the ANC’s discussion in the spring about PKEEP (Pre-Kindergarten Enhancement and Expansion Program): If the District doesn’t invest in adequate capacity in public education whether for teachers, nurses, or materials, parents see this happening and may remove their children from DCPS schools or remove themselves from the District, so the entire school system and the city end up suffering.

Commissioner Bowers said absenteeism was also part of the conversation. Commissioner McCafferty cited the burdens that students cutting classes can create on businesses in the area, including in Tenleytown near Jackson-Reed High School. Commissioner Bowers also mentioned that participants in

the discussion expect that the District will ban cell phones in school during the school day. The Chair said that had been a subject of discussion in the DC Council recently, though the school system said there were not sufficient funds in the 2025-26 school system to cover the costs of securing phones during the day. (Systems for storing students' phones during the day can involve either boxes like a "coat check" system or lockable phone pouches for each student.)

The Chair also mentioned that Metro is close to allowing passengers to "tap to pay" using a smart phone rather than a SmarTrip card. New York City's MTA system already allows riders to tap a card or phone to pay the fare. It will take more time for Metrobus to equip every bus to accommodate "tap to pay." The MTA "tap to pay" system does allow free bus-to-bus transfer but does not yet allow free subway-to-bus transfers. Currently it is possible to load the SmarTrip app on a personal phone so the phone can be used instead of an actual SmarTrip card.

Commissioner Allen said she would be attending a forum on May 28 about potential changes in the start date and other elements of the process for holding District elections.

### **Community Announcements**

Owen Cox of the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) highlighted a petition being circulated for signatures urging Congress to protect federal funding needed for the DC Medicaid system. He also announced that the MOCRS Manager Kendall Gibson would be holding office hours at the Cleveland Park Library on Saturday, May 17, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, to answer questions and help with constituents' issues or concerns with District services. Office hours are usually held during the week but this is designed to reach constituents who are not available on weekdays.

Santiago Mendoza from Councilmember Matt Frumin's office provided an update on the District budget process this year. He said the Council was still hoping to receive the Mayor's proposed FY2026 budget in the next week, as requested by the Council Chair in a letter dated May 15. That would allow for Council budget review and hearings from mid-May to mid-June, and a Council vote by mid-July. Mr. Mendoza noted that the delay in the FY2026 budget was mostly due to the Congress where the House had not adopted a "fix" for the cuts in the District's FY2025 budget that was part of the federal budget legislation enacted in February that would remove at least \$400 million from the total the District could spend in the year ending September 30, 2025. He underlined the devastating effect that cuts to DC's Medicaid reimbursement rates would have to people, hospitals, and services in the District. Mr. Mendoza also outlined the Councilmember's budget priorities: fully funding the DC education system including PKEEP; public safety; support for seniors; tenants; social services and affordable housing; parks, recreation, and libraries. Mr. Mendoza referred constituents to CM Frumin's latest newsletter on May 8 and the next newsletter on May 22 for more information on key aspects of the DC budget and programs.

### **Open Forum**

David White asked about DDOT's notice proposing to allow peak hour left turns from eastbound Massachusetts Avenue onto northbound Wisconsin. He wondered if the NOI went to other ANCs or just to ANC 3A. The Commissioners responded that DDOT had sent an identical NOI to ANC 3C, which also borders the intersection of Massachusetts and Wisconsin Avenues. Mr. White also noted the contrast between the detailed presentations DDOT shared in the NOI last year for changes at the intersection of Porter and 38<sup>th</sup> Street, several meetings and response to comments, compared to the minimal presentation and interaction on the NOI for the proposed left turn which affects a much larger roadway with much more traffic. The Chair responded that the NOI for the Porter Street intersection had involved a request for a Traffic Safety Investigation (TSI) and that NOI affected both a change in traffic patterns and in parking. He suggested that if there were an outpouring of comments, DDOT would give more attention. Commissioner Mladinov noted that in order to support operation of WMATA's "Better Bus" system, which involved on extraordinary scale of change, DDOT had to issue NOIs for dozens of adjustments across the District all at once with a very short time for preparing the notices or for reviewing comments, and that also had probably affected how much had gone into each notice.

### **Administrative Matters**

1. April Minutes: Commissioner Mladinov had prepared minutes of the April 15 ANC 3A public meeting. She also repeated the recommendation of the Office of ANC's that the Commission adopted at the April meeting, providing that the ANC vote to adopt meeting minutes with a provision to allow the Secretary to make needed technical corrections before posting final minutes. The Chair made a motion to vote on the minutes, with the provision that the Secretary could make needed technical corrections. The motion was seconded and the Commission voted 5-0 to approve the April minutes.

2. Monthly Financial Report: Treasurer Gracemary Allen presented the ANC 3A financial report for April:

#### **ANC 3A April Financial Report**

Opening Balance (April 1): \$32,773.11

- Income: None

- Outgoing

Cash Withdrawals: None

Expenditures: \$47.52 Check for Commissioner nameplates

Bank Fees: None (Monthly Fee waived)

Ending Balance (April 30): \$32,725.59

There was also a brief discussion of the proposal earlier in the year for the ANC to purchase a 360° camera for use at meetings, which had been an important consideration when it was not clear where ANC 3A would be holding public meetings during calendar year 2025. In January, the ANC had voted to request funds from the Technical Assistance Fund (TAF) administered by the OANC, which quickly approved the request. At that point, OANC informed the ANC that instead of making purchases itself from TAF, as had happened in the previous year, OANC would transfer funds from the TAF to the individual ANC's account and ask the ANC to make the purchase. Amazon had offered the best price for the Nexigo camera the ANC had proposed to purchase, but Amazon was not able to accept payment from the ANC 3A checking account. OANC had clarified that the ANC could reimburse a Commissioner for making a purchase of that kind, as long as the Commission voted to approve the purchase. In the intervening time, the price of the Nexigo camera has gone up. OANC recently issued a new offer that ANC's could use TAF funds to purchase a more expensive 360° camera called an "Owl," and invited ANC's to put their names on the list by June 30. ANC 3A has \$755.98 in funds from TAF in its bank account for the purpose of purchasing a Nexigo camera. At the current meeting space, a Nexigo 360° camera is available at no additional cost, so there is not the same need as in January, and ANC 3A would want to be fiscally responsible in use of the TAF funds.

The Chair announced that the next ANC 3A public meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, at the McLean Gardens Ballroom, in hybrid format.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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The minutes were approved by the Commission by a vote of 5 - 0 at its duly noticed public meeting on June 17, 2025, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

