



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

*CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS • CLEVELAND PARK*  
*MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS*  
*McLEAN GARDENS • WOODLEY PARK*

*Single Member District Commissioners*

01-Lee Brian Reba; 02-Jason Fink; 03-Janell Pagats  
04-Beau Finley; 05-Sauleh Siddiqui; 06-Adam Hoyt  
07- Maureen Kinlan Boucher; 08-Jocelyn Byer; 09-Nancy MacWood

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**ANC3C Resolution 2022-010**  
**Regarding Historic Preservation Review Board Application For Historic Landmark  
for Uptown Theater at 3426 Connecticut Ave NW**

Whereas, the Uptown Theater at 3426 Connecticut Ave NW is an iconic movie theater that was the centerpiece of economic and cultural activity of the Cleveland Park Business District;

Whereas, the Uptown Theater is a contributing resource to the Cleveland Park Historic District and is currently protected by the Historic Landmark and Historic District Protection Act of 1978;

Whereas, the DC Preservation League and the Cleveland Park Historical Society have filed a Historic Preservation Review Board Application For Historic Landmark for Uptown Theater signed October 29, 2020;

Whereas, the interior of the theater has been heavily altered resulting in the loss of all of the original historic fabric, and as such would not meet the criteria for designation as an Interior Landmark;

Whereas, the iconic façade, marquis and illuminated Uptown sign are a reminder of the role the theater played in the cultural and economic history of the commercial area;

Whereas, the application incorrectly links the automobile-centered evolution of the commercial area with the Uptown Theater, using the parking area behind the build as the justification, despite no evidence that this parking lot was ever a part of the Uptown nor was it used to offer “free parking” for theater patrons as referenced in the Summary, Criterion B (History), and in the Statement of Significance Section 8, Page 9, “Its construction also reflected the increasing importance of motor vehicle transportation on patterns of growth and the development of the city’s major commuter thoroughfares. Constructed just after streetcar service on Connecticut Avenue was replaced by bus service, the theater was easily reached by bus or automobile, as well as on foot. With its rear parking lot originally offering free parking, the Uptown extended the trend set by Arthur Heaton’s innovative Park and Shop retail complex of 1930, located nearby on Connecticut Avenue.”;

Whereas, two emails sent by the DC Preservation League on May 6th, 2022 to the Historic Preservation Office and the Commissioner from 3C05 acknowledged the error of including the parking lot in the summary and justification for the nomination and said they would make a technical edit to the nomination following the hearing;

Whereas, the Uptown Theater’s most recent tenant, AMC, ceased operations in March 2020, coinciding with, but not caused by, coronavirus pandemic;

Whereas, it is expected that future occupants of the building, include the retail tenants located on either side of the front entrance, will require additional signage and branding that does not detract from, and is compatible with, the icon Uptown sign;

Whereas, this application has no bearing on the protection of use of the Uptown as a theater as the HPRB does not regulate uses; and

Whereas, the Uptown Theater provides community, economic, and social benefits to the neighborhood and the city when it's open.

Therefore, Be it resolved that ANC 3C has no objection to landmark the iconic façade, marquee, and Uptown sign as long as the marquee will exclude the areas where the films are listed, the operator's branding/signage is located, and to also exclude any additional tenant's branding/signage.

Be it Further Resolved that ANC3C urges the HPRB to remove all mention of any parking lot from the application, and the linkage of the Uptown to the automobile-centered pattern of growth through technical edits, specifically including, but not limited to, the last sentence of the summary and the removal of this passage in the Statement of Significance Section 8, Page 9, "Its construction also reflected the increasing importance of motor vehicle transportation on patterns of growth and the development of the city's major commuter thoroughfares. Constructed just after streetcar service on Connecticut Avenue was replaced by bus service, the theater was easily reached by bus or automobile, as well as on foot. With its rear parking lot originally offering free parking, the Uptown extended the trend set by Arthur Heaton's innovative Park and Shop retail complex of 1930, located nearby on Connecticut Avenue." and all subsequent references to this parking lot and this specific aspect of Criterion B (History).

Be it Further Resolved that ANC3C objects to the interior of the Uptown being landmarked.

Be It Further Resolved that the ANC authorizes the Chair and the Commissioner for 3C05 to represent the Commission on this matter.

**Attested by**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beau Finley". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Beau Finley  
Chair, on May 16, 2022

*This resolution was approved by roll call vote on May 16, 2022, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.*