



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-Vacant; 03-Janell Pagats
04-Beau Finley; 05-Sauleh Siddiqui; 06-Adam Hoyt
07- Maureen Kinlan Boucher; 08-Jocelyn Dyer; 09-Nancy MacWood

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ANC3C Resolution 2022-024
Resolution Regarding DPW Zero Waste Plan

WHEREAS The District Department of Public Works' Office of Waste Diversion is seeking feedback from the public on the [Zero Waste DC Plan Draft Framework](#). The Plan is designed to reach the goal of diverting 80 percent of the District's waste away from landfills and incineration by 2032, as introduced in the [Sustainable DC Plan](#) and codified into law through the [Sustainable Solid Waste Amendment Act of 2014](#). Based on the most recently reported data in 2018, [DC's waste diversion lags regionally and nationally](#), and has likely struggled even more due to the [impacts of the Covid-19 \(coronavirus\) pandemic](#). The Zero Waste DC Plan Draft Framework will be crucial for DC's dedication toward clean and healthy neighborhoods, sustainability, and environmental justice¹;

WHEREAS Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C has reviewed the District Department of Public Works' recent revisions to the Zero Waste DC Plan Draft Framework. The Commission provides the following feedback on the specific language and provisions in the current Draft Framework, including:

Reduce Per Capita Waste Generation

- The Commission encourages consideration of [producer accountability mechanisms](#) along with programs like Save-As-YouThrow, which provide financial benefits/incentives to residents regarding recycling and composting. The Commission also encourages the Draft Framework to clearly differentiate between Pay-As-You-Throw (charging for throwing out trash to incentivize recycling and composting) and Save-As-You-Throw (providing financial incentives to encourage recycling and composting). (Action 4).
- The Commission appreciates additions to the accountability requirements for DC government operations, contracting, and procurement, and strongly supports the proposals within this goal overall. (Action 1 - Action 6).

Transition From Single-Use Toward Re-Use

- The Commission appreciates prioritizing the location of hydration stations within communities that face the highest levels of water insecurity and vulnerability to extreme heat and believes historical and current exposure to lead in water should also be taken into account. (Action 7).

¹ Babbitt, C. W., Neff, R. A., Roe, B. E., Siddiqui, S., Chavis, C., & Trabold, T. A. (2022). Transforming wasted food will require systemic and sustainable infrastructure innovations. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 54, 101151. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cosust.2022.101151>

- Reliance on compostable containers should include consideration of standards for composting. (Action 10).
- The Commission strongly supports the proposals within this goal (Action 7 - Action 13) and notes the importance of legislation, policy, and oversight in implementing these actions.

Increase Recycling & Composting Participation & Accessibility

- The Commission appreciates the call to study the District’s public space regarding refuse, recycling, and pet waste containers and improve the design of these receptacles. The Commission encourages consideration of including the preliminary draft language regarding “smart” bins to track waste generation and schedule collection prior to overflow. (Action 17 & Action 18).
- In addition, in light of the District Department of Public Works’ practice of removing public trash cans for supposed “misuse,” a problem created in part through insufficient collection from residential buildings with 4+ units, the Commission believes it is essential to note that public trash cans and trash collection are an essential service and should be implemented to meet need. Removal of public trash cans where trash is being placed in those cans - through “misuse” or otherwise - is never a desirable outcome. (Action 17 & Action 18).
- The Commission appreciates the addition in the revised Draft Framework that all existing multi-family residential properties must be retrofitted by 2032 to include sufficient space for the separation of recyclable and compostable materials. The Commission has observed challenges with regard to trash and recycling services and collection for residential buildings with 4+ units. The lack of certain services (including bulk collection), as well as the lack of enforcement for services that property owners should provide (including trash and recycling collection), has created a system that substantially favors homeowners. The Commission urges the Draft Framework to include expanding District Department of Public Works’ trash collection to include residential buildings with 4+ units. (Action 24).
- The Commission strongly supports the proposals within this goal. (Action 14 - Action 25).

Establish Resilient Zero Waste Operations & Infrastructure

- The proposed Zero Waste Campus should include an assessment of possible negative environmental impacts on the local community along Benning Road, NE, particularly as related to Hard to Recycle Materials, to ensure the District is not over-concentrating pollutants in specific areas of the city. (Action 27).
- The Commission strongly supports the proposals within this goal. (Action 26 - Action 29).

Build an Inclusive & Circular Local Economy

- The Commission supports the proposals within this goal. (Action 30 - Action 32).

Increase Education & Enforcement Community-Wide

- The Commission urges consideration of equity and accessibility in outreach to communities. Food waste education and training, zero waste outreach and education, and public surveys should take into account steps necessary to reach communities most impacted by litter, disinvestment, and inadequate city services. These actions should also include language access. (Action 24, Action 35 & Action 36).
- Enforcement should be targeted toward corporations, developers, and property owners and should not result in depriving communities of public goods like public trash and recycling cans, green

spaces, or benches. Too often the Commission has seen communities punished through the removal of public amenities for actions that require systemic action. (Action 38).

- The Commission strongly supports the proposals within this goal. (Action 33 - Action 40).

Protect the Environment for a Cleaner DC

- Similar to above, the Commission reiterates that enforcement for littering and illegal dumping should be targeted toward corporations, developers, and property owners and should not result in depriving communities of public goods like public trash and recycling cans, green spaces, or benches. (Action 41).
- The Commission encourages collaboration with the District Department of Energy and Environment to further develop this goal in particular.
- The Commission strongly supports the proposals within this goal. (Action 41 - Action 43).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C calls on the District Department of Public Works to consider and incorporate the Commission’s feedback into the Zero Waste DC Plan Draft Framework;

FURTHER RESOLVED that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C calls on the Mayor and the DC Council to fully fund efforts to achieve the goals in the Zero Waste DC Plan Draft Framework and the DC Council exercise robust oversight of the District Department of Public Works and to other agencies to ensure implementation of the Draft Framework’s goals;

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission designates Commissioners Janell Pagats, ANC 3C03 and Sauleh Siddiqui, ANC 3C05, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution;

FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the event the designated representative Commissioners cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter relating to this Resolution;

FURTHER RESOLVED that, consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

Attested by



Beau Finley
Chair, on December 13, 2022

This resolution was approved by voice vote on December 13, 2022, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 9 commissioners) was present.