



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS • CLEVELAND PARK  
MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS  
WOODLEY PARK

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Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Frumin,

Macarthur High School (MHS) is slated to open in just 8 months. We are excited about this transformational investment in public education in Ward 3 and our city. Many families are eager for a high school of MHS's planned size, believing that a smaller, cozier educational setting is a better fit for their students. MHS also comes at a critical time for students throughout the ward. Overcrowding within Jackson-Reed High School is already untenable and any resurgence in enrollment post-pandemic will further strain the school's ability to properly educate its student body.

Nonetheless, we write to express grave concerns and reservations about MHS, and we ask for your help in addressing them effectively. Simply put, MHS is functionally inaccessible via public transportation for many in our Commission area. WMATA's Trip Planner estimates that the quickest route in the morning will take over 50 minutes for large swaths of Cleveland Park. The afternoon commute home is no better. At present, commuting via public transportation is not an option. With many families in the area lacking either a personal automobile, occupational flexibility, or the time to drive their high school students to MHS, this means MHS is not a viable option for them regardless of how alluring they find the school.

Transit inaccessibility to MHS is not unique to Cleveland Park or ANC 3C. We join with our fellow Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and communities across Ward 3 in asking you to include in the FY2024 budget and beyond sufficient funding for the creation and operation of a new bus line to serve all of our Commission areas. An example of a proposed bus route is appended to this letter. While the exact route should be modified as necessary, it is essential that the line be accessible to the parts of our neighborhoods that lack alternative public transportation means to commute to MHS. The route should operate in both directions and with short enough headways as to be functional. Further, care should be taken to make the route as attractive as possible for non-student members of our communities without unduly degrading its effectiveness for students to access MHS. Details about whether the route is best operated by the WMATA as a non-regional route or by the District as a new Circulator line are left for city officials to decide.

We believe that something like the example bus route attached to this letter would effectively serve the needs of students within our community while providing a new and valuable transportation amenity for non-students. Such a bus route would help make the promise of MHS into reality. We ask you to make the creation of it a leading priority of your office and advocacy.

**Attested by**

Janell Pagats  
Chair, on January 18, 2023

*This letter was approved by voice vote on January 18, 2023, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 8 commissioners) was present.*