



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CLEVELAND PARK • MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS •
WOODLAND-NORMANSTONE • WOODLEY PARK

Single Member District Commissioners
01-Hayden Gise; 02-Adam Prinzo; 03-Janell Pagats
04-Roric McCorristin; 05-Sauleh Siddiqui; 06-Tammy Gordon
07-Gawain Kripke; 08-Rick Nash

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By Electronic Mail

January 17, 2024

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
United State House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Requesting Assistance with National Park Service land at the Southwest corner of Connecticut Avenue & Calvert Street NW

Representative Norton,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on January 17, 2024 with a quorum present, a quorum being five commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3C voted 8-0-0 to request assistance from your office.

ANC3C is requesting assistance with a parcel of land located on the southwest corner of Connecticut Avenue NW and Calvert Street NW. Adjacent to the William Howard Taft Bridge (hereafter referred to as “the Taft Bridge”), this land is currently under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service (NPS) and home to a retired Metrobus shelter, a Capital Bikeshare station and an underutilized, vacant area with grass and trees that often become overgrown and unkept.

This property has high potential value as a community focus. It represents an important gateway: to downtown heading south on Connecticut Avenue to our neighborhood Woodley Park heading north, and to Rock Creek Park from Calvert Street. The property sits across and adjacent to the Woodley Park commercial district with significant foot traffic heading various directions.

We believe this site could be an important resource for place-making in Woodley Park would like to pursue plans to better integrate it into our neighborhood. To do this, a transfer from Park Service management to District of Columbia would be necessary.

A non-exclusive list of ideas for the site include:

- Place-making signage for Woodley Park, Rock Creek Park, and downtown DC. This space has also been identified as a “Gateway” by the DC Office of Planning in the recently completed [Connecticut Avenue Development Guidelines](#). This space should “celebrate places of arrival and transition along the corridor” and this would be much more likely to be successful if the

land was in the hands of the District of Columbia rather than NPS;

- A dog park for neighbors with no close-by designated dog park facility;
- A remembrance of neighbors and community members. As you may know the Taft Bridge is currently undergoing a review for pedestrian safety and public health. This issue was re-introduced to ANC3C in late 2022, almost 40 years after the original advocacy effort, and is the subject of three ANC resolutions calling on DDOT to enhance public safety at the bridge. For reference, an investigation conducted by the District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner found the Taft Bridge to be responsible for 50% of deaths by suicide involving a bridge within the city, between January 2010 and June 2022.

We believe that the transfer of National Park Service land at the southwest corner of Connecticut Avenue and Calvert Street NW to the District of Columbia could greatly enhance the quality of life for Woodley Park residents, the broader Northwest DC community, and visitors. Establishing a green space dedicated to recreational activities fosters community engagement, provides a venue for social interactions, and contributes to the overall well-being of residents and their pets. These positive outcomes would also help mend the Taft Bridge's public image and create new associations to replace its infamy as a suicide bridge. This proposed transformation aligns with the principles of community building and public space utilization, ensuring that the area becomes a vibrant and welcoming hub that residents can enjoy and feel safe in.

We hope your office can assist us in getting this area transferred to the District of Columbia's jurisdiction, so it can be cleaned up and used by all members of the community.

The Commission authorizes the Chair and the Commissioners for 3C02 and 3C03 and/or their designee(s) to represent the Commission on this matter.

Sincerely,



Janell Pagats
Chair ANC 3C
Single Member District 3C03

CC: Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia

Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia

Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia

Trayon White, Ward 8 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia,

Chair, Committee on Recreation, Libraries and Youth Affairs