



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

P.O. Box 4966
Washington, DC 20008
Website <http://www.anc3c.org>
Email all@anc3c.org

By Electronic Mail

June 17, 2024

The Honorable Robert White
At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia
Chair, Committee on Housing
The John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

RE: ANC3C Comments on B25-0827 - The Pets in Housing Amendment Act of 2024

Councilmember White,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on June 17, 2024 with a quorum present, a quorum being five commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3C voted 7-0-0 to submit these written comments on the Secure DC Omnibus legislation.

Pets play a significant role in the lives of many people, offering companionship, emotional support, and even health benefits. However, the joy of pet ownership can sometimes be overshadowed by the challenges it introduces, particularly when it comes to finding suitable housing. Many landlords and housing providers impose strict pet policies or additional fees, making it difficult for pet owners to secure accommodations. These obstacles highlight the ongoing tension between the desire for pet-friendly living environments and the practical concerns of property management.

In response to this you have introduced a comprehensive piece of legislation “The Pets in Housing Amendment Act of 2024”, ANC3C would like to offer the following comments on the proposed legislation:

1. ANC3C is in support of “The Pets in Housing Amendment Act of 2024”
2. ANC3C is in support of provisions that caps pet security deposit fees at \$300 and a monthly pet fee of \$25/month.
3. ANC3C asks that the committee look at possible provisions of allowing tenants to pay an annual fee for pets as opposed to a combination of monthly rent + pet security deposit. Furthermore, ANC3C asks the committee to look at the impact this has on whether leases would need to be updated for current tenants.
4. ANC3C is in support of making said pet security deposits refundable for low income residents, so long as the resident’s pet does not cause any serious damage to the home.

5. ANC3C supports the provision on “restrictions or differing fees for particular breeds”.
6. ANC3C requests the addition of an “aggressive pet fee” for pets that have a documented history of aggressive behavior, that have the potential to pose some safety risk to others when the pet is not handled correctly.
7. ANC3C is fully in support of requiring the Department of Human Services to ensure that at least one low barrier shelter is available for individuals or families experiencing homelessness who have a pet; having a shelter that allows pets provides a safe haven for individuals and families without forcing them to abandon their beloved family members, thereby reducing the emotional stress of homelessness. It also helps prevent pets from being left on the streets or sent to the Humane Society, ensuring their safety and well-being while supporting the bond between pets and their families.

ANC3C has previously called on the Council to look at upgrading dognapping or “petnapping” provisions in the DC Code to become consistent with other jurisdictions in the region. ANC3C continues to call on the Council to undertake a review of this and look at potentially raising the penalties for this offense.

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

Sincerely,



Janell Pagats
Chair ANC 3C
Single Member District 3C03

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