



**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  
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**ANC 3C Resolution 2024-CONSENT**  
**Supporting a Strong, Equitable Beverage Container Deposit-Return Law**

WHEREAS, The District of Columbia is inundated with beverage container pollution which poses risks to human health and the climate. While beverage container litter and dumping is found throughout the District, it most adversely affects residents of Wards 5, 7 and 8, all of which border the Anacostia River, and

WHEREAS, The Anacostia is one of only three rivers in the United States that the EPA has deemed “impaired by trash.” The [Anacostia Riverkeeper Trash Mitigation Report, 2023](#) documents this environmental crisis, including the cover photo of one of many piles of beverage containers cleaned up at Pope Branch Park on Martin Luther King Day in 2023, and

WHEREAS, More than 50 percent of the trash, by weight, collected in Anacostia River trash traps is plastic bottles, and

WHEREAS, More than 617 million covered beverage containers are sold in the District each year, but less than one quarter, or 152 million, of these containers, are recycled. Almost 464.5 million beverage containers sold annually in the District are not recycled.<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, These 464.5 million un-recycled beverage containers either get sent to methane-belching landfills, contributing to global warming<sup>2</sup>, the toxin-emitting incinerator in Lorton, Virginia, or wind up in the environment as litter. Once cleaned out of our parks, neighborhoods and waterways, they are too contaminated to be recycled. Instead, they are sent to be landfilled or incinerated. Both options pose their own environmental and health damage. In addition, plastic bottles release microplastics into the environment and may contain toxic chemicals, such as PFAS<sup>3</sup>, and

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 Beverage Market Data Analysis, Container Recycling Institute, 2024. Note: covered beverage containers in the District’s beverage container deposit return law include all beverages sold in plastic, aluminum or glass bottles or cans with the exception of dairy and dairy alternative beverages. Some 9.7 million milk and dairy alternative beverage containers are sold in the District annually.

<sup>2</sup> ‘Garbage Lasagna’: Dumps Are A Big Driver of Warming, Study Says, New York Times, March 28, 2024 at <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/03/28/climate/landfills-methane-emissions.html>

<sup>3</sup> The Problem With Bottled Water, Consumer Reports, December 7, 2023 at <https://www.consumerreports.org/health/bottled-water/the-problem-with-bottled-water-a9416685511/>.

WHEREAS, Of the 617 million beverage containers sold annually in the District, 345 million (or over 55 percent) are plastic bottles; more than 180 million (nearly 30 percent) are aluminum cans and nearly 92 million (almost 15%) are glass bottles<sup>4</sup>. The District’s beverage container litter crisis concerns all three container materials. A solution addressing only plastic bottles is not sufficient because it would leave 45 percent of beverage containers still polluting the District, and

WHEREAS, More than 255 million of the covered bottles and cans sold in the District annually are used to sell water<sup>5</sup>. Considering the District still has more than 42,000 lead service lines,<sup>6</sup> many District residents do not trust their tap water and buy bottled water instead. This issue can also be mitigated through a strong, equitable bottle bill, and

WHEREAS, A strong, equitable bottle bill for the District would establish a ten-cent deposit on all beverage containers sold in the District (with the exception of dairy and dairy-alternative beverages). Beverage container deposits incentivize people to return containers for the deposit refund, and

WHEREAS, Beverage container deposit-return laws, commonly called “bottle bills” are proven to cut trash and increase recycling rates because of the incentivizing deposit. They are an effective waste diversion measure, and

WHEREAS, The ten U.S. bottle bill states, including California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York and Oregon, account for 27% of the U.S. population, yet provide over 50% of all bottles recycled in the United States,<sup>7</sup> and

WHEREAS, A strong, equitable bottle bill will enable deposit refunds to be directed to a non-profit organization’s bottle bill account so that qualified non-profit organizations, like churches or community sports teams, can mobilize bottle drives as a fund-raising mechanism. Families can also establish bottle bill accounts as a college-education savings fund, and

WHEREAS, Equitable bottle bills require ease of return to stores<sup>8</sup> as well as other convenient locations in food desert neighborhoods. It’s important that no one has to travel a long distance to get their deposit refunded, and

WHEREAS, Although deposits incentivize most people to return their beverage container, not everyone will seek a deposit return. Tourists, for example, may not return their bottles and cans for a deposit refund. This will leave a pool of unclaimed deposits. A strong, equitable bottle bill for the District would allocate unclaimed deposits to a variety of community programs such as

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<sup>4</sup> 2021 Beverage Market Data Analysis, Container Recycling Institute, 2024.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> DC Water Lead Free DC webpage at:

<https://www.dewater.com/resources/lead#:~:text=DC%20Water%20estimates%20the%20District.of%20them%20with%20copper%20pipe.>

<sup>7</sup> <https://resource-recycling.com/recycling/2024/01/02/report-bottle-bill-states-recycle-more-provide-models/>

<sup>8</sup> Our proposed bill includes chain stores and stores larger than 2500 square feet, thereby excluding neighborhood corner stores from having to accept returns of bottles and cans.

environmental programs and programs to help low-income residents living in households with lead service lines to purchase quality lead filters.

WHEREAS, The beverage industry has known for decades that curbside recycling is not an adequate solution to the beverage container pollution crisis<sup>9</sup> and that bottle bills are effective.<sup>10</sup> Beverage companies oppose bottle bills because they require these companies to take responsibility for the litter, dumping and environmental harm they cause, and

WHEREAS, The beverage container pollution crisis demands a change to the status quo established by beverage companies, and

WHEREAS, ANC3C continually sees plastic bottles along its borders, roadways, and residential streets that be a public health and safety challenge that needs to be addressed along with robust community engagement, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT ANC3C endorses the DC Council to introduce a strong, equitable bottle bill for the District and to hold a hearing with robust community engagement on this bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair, and the Commissioner for 3C02 are authorized to represent ANC3C on this matter.

**Attested by**



Janell Pagats  
**Chair, on September 16, 2024**

*This resolution was approved by voice vote on September 16, 2024, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 8 commissioners) was present.*

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<sup>9</sup> Earth Island Institute v the Coca-Cola Company, District of Columbia Superior Court at <https://www.earthisland.org/index.php/advocates/suit/coca-cola-plastic>

<sup>10</sup> Keep America Beautiful National Litter Study, 2020 at [https://www.bottlebill.org/images/PDF/Keep%20America%20Beautiful%202020%20National%20Litter%20Study%20report%20March%202021\(1\).pdf](https://www.bottlebill.org/images/PDF/Keep%20America%20Beautiful%202020%20National%20Litter%20Study%20report%20March%202021(1).pdf)