



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

Single Member District Commissioners

01-Samuel Littauer; 02-Adam Prinzo; 03-Janell Pagats
04-Erin Beard; 05-Zach Shaben; 06-Jay Bose;
07-Gawain Kripke; 08-Rick Nash

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By Electronic Mail

February 18, 2025

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 The Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) Performance Oversight

Councilmember White,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on February 18, 2025 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 performance oversight of the Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC).

ANC3C is writing to provide testimony for the Performance Oversight Hearing on OANC. As the agency responsible for supporting Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) across the District, the OANC plays a crucial role in ensuring commissioners have the resources, guidance, and administrative support needed to effectively serve their communities. This oversight hearing is an important opportunity to assess the agency's performance, address ongoing challenges, and identify areas for improvement to enhance the effectiveness and transparency of ANCs. I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this discussion and offer insights based on my experience.

ANC3C would like to offer the following suggestions:

1. **ANC Annual Reports:** Per DC Code ANCs are required to file an annual report with the Council and the Mayor for the preceding fiscal year and that report must be published. Per the OANC overnight pre-hearing questionnaire only about half of the ANCs in the District fulfilled this requirement. While ANC3C fulfilled this requirement we want to highlight the extra administrative burden this requirement poses to ANCs. As you know ANCs are hyperlocal volunteer positions and without proper administrative help fulfilling this requirement takes time and resources some commissioners may not have. Since there is no penalty for not fulfilling this requirement, ANC3C suggests looking at making this optional again or removing it entirely.
2. **Administrative Assistance:** Again, As you know ANCs are hyperlocal volunteer positions and while some ANCs have the funds/time or both to dedicate to hiring a staff person such as an Administrative Assistant, this again requires extra time of a few commissions to oversee and or manage said employee, it also creates a further burden on the treasure to make sure said employees pay is in

compliance with all wage and hour regulations and other tax obligations, it also requires the ANC's to make sure employees get W2s or 1099s which creates another administrative burdens for commissioners. ANC3C suggests that the OANC should use some of its budget to hire shared employees to assist with ANC's.

3. **Child Care:** ANC3C suggests looking at loosening the rather stringent restrictions on commissioners being able to "expense" child care expenses.
4. **Treasurer Duties:** The duties of an ANC Treasurer are often overly burdensome for a volunteer role, requiring meticulous financial management, quarterly reporting (and furthermore monthly reporting), and strict compliance with District regulations. The complexity of these responsibilities—ranging from budget oversight to detailed expense tracking—can be overwhelming for commissioners who already balance their ANC duties with professional and personal commitments. Additionally, the OANC has not always provided clear and timely guidance on financial reporting deadlines, leading to unnecessary confusion and compliance challenges. Improved communication and streamlined processes from the OANC would greatly alleviate these burdens and ensure financial transparency without unduly straining volunteer commissioners.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janell Pagats', with a stylized, flowing script.

Janell Pagats
Chair, ANC3C

CC: Kent Bose, Executive Director, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
Shanel Wilson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Councilmember Robert White
Shawn Hilgendorf, Committee Director, Committee on Housing