

## 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 (Secretary); 02-Adam Prinzo (Vice Chairperson); 03-Janell Pagats (Chairperson); 04-Erin Beard; 05-Zach Shaben; 06-Jay Bose; 07-Gawain Kripke (Treasurer); 08-Rick Nash P.O. Box 4966 Washington, DC 20008 Website http://www.anc3c.org Email 3C@anc.dc.gov

## ANC 3C Resolution 2025-CONSENT Support for Continued Funding of the PKEEP Program for Community-Based Organizations

WHEREAS Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C ("ANC3C") represents the residents of the neighborhoods of Cleveland Park, Massachusetts Avenue Heights, Woodland-Normanstone, and Woodley Park in Ward 3, Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS the District is a national leader in expanding access to early childhood education, which is a source of pride and an expression of values for our city; and

WHEREAS public Pre-K is critical for children in Ward 3 and across the District, and participation in high-quality early childhood programs leads to better educational outcomes, including improved school readiness, increased academic achievement, reduced chronic absenteeism, and higher high school graduation rates; and

WHEREAS affordable childcare and early education is an important factor in retaining families with young children in our neighborhood. In 2023, DC had the highest cost of childcare in the country at \$24,396 per child at community-based organizations (CBO); and

WHEREAS families in Ward 3 and throughout the city make housing decisions in part based on access to public Pre-K, and the high cost of childcare in the District is a significant barrier to family retention; and

WHEREAS current demand for accessible Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 slots exceeds what DC Public Schools (DCPS) and public charter schools can provide, with Ward 3's utilization at 108% according to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) FY23 data, underscoring the need for expanded options; and

WHEREAS community-based organizations (CBOs) participating in the PKEEP program help meet that demand, providing families with neighborhood-based Pre-K options that support local community engagement and ease logistical burdens; and

WHEREAS none of the public elementary schools in the ANC 3C feeder area offer PreK3, making community-based organizations (CBOs)-- including Communikids, St. Alban's Childcare Center and Two Birds- the only option for many families; and

WHEREAS the sudden removal of funding from the PKEEP program could result in more than 1,000 children losing Pre-K placements in the coming year, with more than 350 of those children in Ward 3 and with DCPS and charter schools unable to absorb the resulting enrollment needs; and

WHEREAS Pre-K capacity in public and charter schools is constrained by physical space limitations, while CBOs are uniquely positioned to fill the gap; and

WHEREAS the viability of CBOs also supports childcare services for children ages 0-3, helping ensure continuity of care for families across income levels and supporting the financial stability of childcare centers that already operate with narrow margins and face persistent staffing challenges; and

WHEREAS defunding the PKEEP program would undermine family access, increase costs, and reduce the quality and availability of early childhood education across the District.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC3C strongly urges Mayor Muriel Bowser, the District's Chief Financial Officer, and the Council of the District of Columbia to fully fund the PKEEP program and preserve financial support for community-based organizations that provide early childhood education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC3C supports maintaining a diverse ecosystem of Universal Pre-K options—including DCPS, public charter schools, and community-based organizations—and calls for continued funding of both the PKEEP program and the DC Child Care Subsidy;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair and the Commissioner for 3C07 are authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

Attested by

Janell Pagats Chair, on May 19, 2025

This resolution was approved by voice vote on May 19, 2025, at a scheduled and noticed public meeting of ANC 3C at which a quorum (a minimum of 5 of 8 commissioners) was present.