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## Neighborhood News, Week Ending November 12

1 message

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### *Democracy in action.*

All told, 2836 people took the ANC's Community Center and Library Survey.

Many thanks again to the nearly 500 who took it in our SMD. See details below with a link to the reports.

## Neighborhood News for ANC Single Member District 02 Week Ending November 12, 2023 (with added news from this week)

### ANC survey results

#### What's next?

#### ANC meeting Monday night (Nov 13)

#### Zoning Commission "set down" decision (Nov 9)

#### Stopping car break-ins: better approaches

#### How to report a crime or suspicious activity

#### Plus: pies for Thanksgiving, learning about our watershed, etc.

- **ANC Community Center and Library Survey results are in and available [here](#).** There are three reports posted: (1) summary results based on all 2836 responses, (2) summary results based only on 2297 ANC 3/4G resident responses, and (3) summary results based only on 539 responses from non-ANC 3/4G and non-DC residents.

### Overall headline numbers:

Fifty-seven percent (57%) favor only building new or renovating the existing Chevy Chase Community Center and Library facilities or oppose any redevelopment of the site.

Fifty-nine percent (59%) oppose "surplussing" (i.e., declaring no longer needed for public use) any portion of the current site to enable the development of affordable housing.

Nearly 70% prefer buildings not exceed five stories.

Those numbers all rise when filtering the data for ANC 3/4G respondents only.

In contrast, non-ANC residents more strongly support the District's proposals as well as taller building heights. Yet, they still oppose surplussing.

**That's the community-wide view. What say our neighborhood survey takers?** I've attached the summary report for our SMD along with the 162 (unedited) comments respondents provided at the end of the survey. I think you'll find both of great interest.

### SMD 02 headline numbers:

Sixty percent (60%) favor only building new or renovating the existing Community Center and Library facilities or oppose any redevelopment of the site.

Sixty-three percent (63%) oppose surplussing.

Seventy-three (73%) prefer buildings not exceed five stories.

- **Does the survey represent the population of Chevy Chase?** It represents the people who took the survey. And 539 of those people don't live in Chevy Chase, specifically in ANC 3/4G. Overall, the survey respondents skew more female, older, White, and more single-family home owner, etc. than the overall population. By design this was an open survey, not a random sample survey. The difference? Anyone could take it, not just those randomly selected to represent the population. The latter would certainly have excluded non-ANC 3/4G residents and likely been limited to 250-300 people (sufficient to be statistically valid). The Commission wanted all residents to be able to weigh in. And they did in record numbers for ANC surveys.
- **So, now what?** ANC Commissioners are studying the results. In none of the seven ANC 3/4G SMDs (single member districts) is there a majority in favor of the District's redevelopment proposals. The next ANC meeting is November 27 at which time the Commission will consider a resolution, yet to be drafted, articulating the ANC's stance.

**I've been asked, "Will the ANC heed the voice of the residents as expressed in the survey?"** One might assume so given "the ANCs' main job is to be their neighborhood's official voice in advising the District government (and Federal agencies) on matters that affect their neighborhoods." In addition, the Commission has said it will use the survey results to inform its official positions.

**I've also been asked, "Will District government heed the voice of the ANC?"** DC government by law is required to give ANC official resolutions "great weight." They are not, however, required by law to accept them.

**I reaffirm my position to vote the views of all of you, my constituents.** With nearly 500 neighbors having now registered their views, there is a substantial body of opinion data on which to base my representation.

- **November 13 Commission meeting – what happened?** See the [agenda](#); watch the [recording](#). In brief, the Commission presented the topline results of the ANC Chevy Chase Community Center and Library Survey (reported above), discussed reaction to the DC Zoning Commission November 9 meeting to advance the Office of Planning's proposals for upzoning on Connecticut Avenue (see below), approved a resolution calling on DC Public Schools to negotiate in good faith with the Washington Teachers' Union, and tabled most everything else.
- **The DC Zoning Commission (ZC) agreed at its November 9 meeting to advance the Office of Planning's case for a "set down" hearing on the proposed rezoning of upper Connecticut Avenue.** ZC took up OP's case even though it had failed to notify the ANC of the meeting and provide us with an opportunity to comment on OP's proposals. That occasioned a letter I wrote to ZC (available at the above link), which fellow Commissioners Michael Zeldin and Peter Lynch also signed. In the letter I called on ZC to postpone consideration of OP's application until the ANC had completed our engagement of the community and could share a definitive readout of community views.

**ZC rejected our request to postpone**, pardoning its own deficiency in not having notified the ANC of the meeting to allow us an opportunity to weigh in. ZC Chair Anthony Hood gratuitously harangued Chevy Chase in the process. If you have the patience, the recording of the meeting is here. The ANC is looking at officially protesting the Zoning Commission's actions.

- **Car break-ins: bringing fresh MPD attention to the problem.** The ANC has held various meetings with MPD this year to address the increasing car break-ins and occasional car thefts. On Thursday (November 9), we held the highest-level engagement to date. MPD Assistant Chief Morgan Kane and MPD Second District Commander John Branch met for 90 minutes with some 30 neighbors at St. John's College High School to address new efforts to crack down on the crimes. These will now include greater MPD community engagement (starting with Wednesday's meet-and-greet), better rapid response capability, crime suppression, improved reporting (see next below), and ongoing ANC-MPD collaboration. See the full report attached.

- **How to report a crime (car break-in or theft) or suspicious activity.**

Call 911. Yes, always start with 911.

If you have difficulties or the 911 dispatcher is not responsive, contact the Watch Commander at 202-438-4421.

If you have additional details or evidence (e.g., videos) to share or feel the response has been inadequate, contact Lieutenant Marlon Ollivierre at 202-715-7355 (office) or 202-536-7127 (cell) or by email at [Marlon.Ollivierre@dc.gov](mailto:Marlon.Ollivierre@dc.gov).

If you wish to provide feedback on the overall response or address other MPD Second District activity, contact Captain Darren Haskis at 202-715-7315 (office) or 202-809-8814 (cell) or by email at [Darren.Haskis@dc.gov](mailto:Darren.Haskis@dc.gov).

You can also always be in touch with MPD leadership, Commander Branch ([John.Branch@dc.gov](mailto:John.Branch@dc.gov)) and MPD Asst Chief Kane ([Morgan.Kane@dc.gov](mailto:Morgan.Kane@dc.gov)).

Reporting crimes or suspicious activity is critical not only to addressing the emergency at hand – please take the time to make the report. It's important to record every occurrence of crime so that MPD can track the totality of incidents to enhance their tactical response and resource allocations.

## Notices and Events

**Attend Rock Creek Conservancy's virtual panel discussion, "Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Rock Creek Park Reality"** on the history and origins of the National Park Service and Rock Creek Park, Thursday (November 16) from 5:30-7:00 PM.

**Avoid the new fines for parking, stopping, or idling in front of bus stops.** Automated bus zone enforcement, using traffic cameras mounted on MetroBuses, began today (November 15) under DDOT's (District Department of Transportation) Clear Lanes project. RTickets are \$100.

**Buy pies for Thanksgiving to support the Model UN team at School Without Walls.** The Model UN team does one major fundraiser each year, and this is it, selling homemade pies. Model UN is a club entirely run by students. They participate in conferences simulating the UN. Travel can be costly, and they want everyone to be able to participate. Pies will be delivered on November 19 in time for Thanksgiving.

**Learn about what's polluting our local rivers and what you can do about it – attend the annual meeting of the Potomac RiverKeeper Network,** December 6 at The Women's Club of Chevy Chase, 7931 Connecticut Ave., from 7-8:30 pm. It's a great opportunity to ask about our watershed, including Rock Creek, and how you can help. For more information, and to register (not mandatory; you can just show up) [click here](#).

Finally, [here's](#) the weekly newsletter from the office of our Ward 4 Councilmember Janeese Lewis George.

As always, be in touch with any comments, questions, or requests for service.

Best, Bruce

**Bruce Sherman**


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**2 attachments**

 **CCLS Survey SMD 02 Summary Data.pdf**  
687K

 **CCLS Survey SMD 02 Responses.pdf**  
271K