



Jane Sherman <janetillinghastsherman@gmail.com>

Neighborhood News, Week Ending November 19

1 message

Sherman, Bruce (SMD 3G02) <3G02@anc.dc.gov>
To: "Sherman, Bruce (SMD 3G02)" <3G02@anc.dc.gov>

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Note the next two ANC meeting dates, November 27 and December 7 to discuss the ANC Survey and the Commission's resolution

We're debuting soon in SMD 02 a new neighborhood discussion platform A+A (see below). Tell me [here](#) the neighborhood issue you feel most merits community dialogue and debate.

Neighborhood News for ANC Single Member District 02 Week Ending November 19, 2023

**All ANC Survey reports now available
Further survey data on our neighborhood (SMD 02)
November 27 and December 7 ANC meetings on the survey
Introducing "Anonymous and Accountable" (A+A)**

- **ANC 3/4G has now issued the complete set of reports on the Community Center and Library Survey, which closed on November 12.** These include all Single Member District reports as well as the overall summary reports on the data and the individual comments respondents provided. You can find them at: <https://anc3g.org/anc-surveys/october-2023-civic-core-site-survey/>.

The completion and response rates were exceptionally high. To review, in total, 2836 people took the survey: 2297 from ANC 3/4G, 459 from DC but not ANC 3/4G, and 80 from outside DC. All told, 2554 people finished it, for a completion rate of 90%. Among ANC 3/4G respondents, 2297 took the survey and 2090 completed it, for a completion rate of 91%. The ANC response rate was nearly one of five adults (19%, 2297 of 11,868 ANC adult residents).

The rates are also very high by comparison. Prior ANC surveys had solid response rates. The [2019 ANC survey](#) in support of the task force evaluating revisions to the District's Comprehensive Plan fielded 682 complete responses, for a response of 4.55%, which the report at the time rightly characterized as "high for such surveys." The [2017 ANC Community Center Survey](#) had 929 total responses and 777 complete responses, for a 5+% response rate. When the DC government surveyed the entire District for three months in 2019 in support of the [Housing Equity Report](#) with publicity through social media and the ANCs, some 2700 people responded which the city, also rightly, touted as an accomplishment.

In short, the ANC Community Center and Library Survey is extraordinary in the level of community participation. There has never been a manifestation of neighborhood voice on this scale.

- **Who took the survey in our neighborhood?** In total, 495 of our neighbors took the survey (470 online, 25 on paper), constituting 30% of the population, a strikingly high response rate.

Participation was relatively even across all age cohorts. The following shows the age group, the percentage of the SMD 02 population, and the percentage of our survey respondents: (19-34): 4%,

3%; (35-44): 17%, 20%; (45-54), 23%, 16%; (55-64), 15%, 20%; (65-74), 24%, 19%; and (75+), 14%, 17%. Support for the District's proposed redevelopment skewed younger; opposition skewed older.

Forty-two percent (42%) of our households have children under 18; 37% took the survey.

Households with children under 18 support the District's proposed redevelopment by a 53% to 45% margin.

Women make up 52% of our population, men 48%; survey respondents were 54% female, 43% male(3% preferred not to indicate their gender). Among those who supported the District's proposed redevelopment, women and men were almost evenly split; among those who favored only a new or renovated Community Center and Library or opposed any redevelopment, women exceeded men by 57% to 38%.

Whites are 77% of the neighborhood population, Blacks 12%; Whites were 81% of the survey sample, Blacks were 10%. Both Whites and Blacks are opposed to the District's proposed redevelopment – Whites by a 58% to 38% margin, Blacks by 64% to 33%.

In sum, except for the higher percentage of women vs men, the 495 people who took the survey in our neighborhood are broadly representative of the population as whole.

- **The November 27 and December 7 ANC meetings will focus on the survey and its implications for Commission policy.** The November 27 meeting will devote considerable time to further reviewing the results of the survey and will likely consider a draft resolution in response to the District's proposed redevelopment. The December 7 meeting will be a special ANC meeting and will certainly consider for passage a resolution expressing the Commission's position on DC's plans. Neighbors should plan to attend and participate.
- **Pressing questions:** If the role of the ANC is to be the neighborhood voice, will the ANC heed the voice of the neighborhood? Will ANC residents' take precedence over views of non-residents? How will Commissioners deconflict constituents' views, their own views, and the District's views (i.e., policy objectives)?
- **Introducing Anonymous + Accountable – a new discussion platform developed by one of our own residents Pedja Neskovic (27th St).** Mutual understanding and amicable resolution of differences are goals of democratic discourse – including forums within our ANC and immediate neighborhood. But they founder if participants feel intimidated, or worse, harassed. They can also spin out of control and result in shutting down conversation. ANC 3/4G has, for example, disabled the chat function of Zoom meetings due to rancor and acrimony (to the consternation of some community members).

Working with a team of computer scientists in his home country of Serbia, Pedja (PhD, Brown) has developed a new platform called Anonymous and Accountable that aims to solve or certainly ameliorate the problem of contentious online discourse. A+A allows real-time meeting feedback and space for open, authentic conversation without social and peer pressures. In Pedja's words A+A is "where the power of arguments matters more than the power of individuals that make the arguments."

We will debut A+A soon to test it in our community -- date TBA. Meanwhile, please suggest [here](#) a topic or two you feel would be important, if difficult, to discuss with your neighbors.

(Pedja Neskovic received his Ph.D. in Physics from Brown University in 1999. He stayed at Brown as faculty at the Institute for Brain and Neural Systems until he moved to DC in 2009. He currently works in the Federal government as a program manager where he oversees programs in AI, machine learning, Big Data and computational decision-making.)

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

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner

ANC 3/4G Single Member District 02

m. [202-798-1420](tel:202-798-1420)

e. 3G02@anc.dc.gov

