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## Neighborhood News, Week Ending December 3

1 message

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Mon, Dec 4, 2023 at 9:38 PM

### Ojo!

**Special ANC meeting (Civic Core denouement), Wed, Dec 6, 6PM, ChCH Community Center**  
**I want to hear from you ahead of time – your final thoughts on the Civic Core!**  
**Join me tomorrow Tues, Dec 5, 8 PM for a community conversation on [Zoom](#)**

## Neighborhood News for ANC [Single Member District 02](#) Week Ending December 3, 2023

**ANC 3/4G special meeting – Wed, 6PM**  
**Draft resolutions re the Civic Core**  
**ANC 3/4G November 27 meeting: recap**  
**Increased neighborhood police surveillance**  
**Tennyson St: 2717, road repairs**  
**Leaf collection to come**  
**Temporary parking by St. John's students**  
**Plus: Christmas markets, St. Columba's labyrinth**

- **ANC 3/4G will hold a special meeting on December 6 for final discussion and action on the Chevy Chase Community Center and Library site. Please note it will start at 6 PM not the normal 7 PM, at the Community Center and on [Zoom](#) (please register). The draft agenda is attached. The meeting will focus on the ANC's official position on the District's proposed redevelopment of the Community Center and Library site following the recently completed ANC survey. **The December 6 meeting is critical to the future of the Chevy Chase Connecticut Avenue corridor. I urge all interested community members to attend.****
- **There are two resolutions scheduled for debate at the special meeting.** Keep in mind, the District only accords "great weight" to ANC official resolutions – meaning, the community voice is channeled through the Commission. Whatever the survey results say, it's what the Commissioners say about the results that ultimately matters.

**Commissioner Peter Gosselin has written a [resolution](#) in support of moving forward with the District's proposed redevelopment.** His resolution appears to have majority support of the Commission and will likely pass, pending "friendly" amendments. His document endorses the survey results but argues, "the Commission's assessment is that the District is intent on redeveloping the Community Center-Library site with housing and affordable housing ... it is unlikely they will back down." Accordingly, he reasons, "The right course for the Commission and the Chevy Chase community -- and the one most likely to preserve the community's ability to influence development at the Community Center-Library site – is to continue seeking to contribute to a solution to the District's affordable housing problem, including at the site." I recommend you read the resolution in full (click on the underscored "resolution" above).

I cannot support Commissioner's Gosselin's resolution for two reasons. First, while it recognizes the majority sentiment expressed in the survey, it does not heed it. Second, in not heeding the majority view but rather maintaining the position the District will proceed regardless what the Commission says, the resolution abdicates the Commission's responsibility to deliver the community's position irrespective of anticipated outcome.

There's no reason, in my view, for the ANC not to forcefully advance the sentiment of the neighborhood on the heels of the survey. We've told the District it was coming; we've asked that they hold off until we report the results; now we have them. We should deliver them with conviction and force the District government to respond. Why play a card prematurely?

It's also the right thing to do given our mission and the law, as noted below. And it could very well produce results despite the conventional wisdom.

**I've written an alternative resolution (attached) asking the District to hold off pending further ANC efforts to reconcile community views on affordable housing in Chevy Chase.** Mine is decidedly a minority view, perhaps only mine. Here's the gist and further reasoning.

**The resolution seeks to unite the Chevy Chase community now badly divided by the controversy surrounding the District's proposed redevelopment.** It affirms the majority opposition, as measured by the survey, and accordingly requests that the District stand down now. At the same time, it acknowledges minority support for housing and that majority opposition in the survey concerns specifically the Community Center and Library site, not housing elsewhere on Connecticut Avenue or Chevy Chase broadly. The resolution thus calls on the ANC to begin a new effort to reconcile community views around other options for housing in the neighborhood.

As I noted last week, in our neighborhood (SMD 02), 495 people took the survey. There were some skews on gender and race, but otherwise results were relatively balanced across age cohorts, etc. Nothing in the meta data or analytics challenges the survey's integrity. **Our neighborhood, again, is 60:37 opposed to the proposed redevelopment. All survey reports (21 in total) are available at the ANC [website](#).**

**As Commissioner, I've pledged to vote your views, not my own. I endorse the ANC's [mission](#), "to be the neighborhood voice," and [DC Code](#), which states, "Each Advisory Neighborhood Commission ... may advise the Council of the District of Columbia, the Mayor and each executive agency ... with respect to all proposed matters of District government policy ... which affect that Commission area."** In other words, my job (and the Commission's job, IMO) is to tell the DC government what you think about what it proposes to do in our neighborhood.

**Having heard from almost 500 of you, my job now is to heed what you've told me and what other ANC 3/4G respondents have said.** My resolution does that. It sides with the majority view, as I believe it must, but also recognizes a significant minority in favor of the development. It then seeks to reconcile the two sides to find common ground.

**I'm hosting a neighborhood [Zoom](#) call to hear any further, final thoughts you have on the proposed Civic Core redevelopment in light of the draft resolutions and other recent developments. This is the last chance to weigh in on the matter. It's tomorrow night, Tues, Dec 5, 8 PM. Please join me.**

- **ANC 3/4G November 27 meeting – what happened?** See the [agenda](#); watch the [recording](#). In brief, the Commission further reviewed the results of the recent ANC survey and discussed the [draft resolution](#) prepared by Commissioner Gosselin (discussed above) on the District's proposed redevelopment of the Community Center and Library site. The Commission took up and approved two resolutions regarding bio-retention beds, both directed to the District Department of Transportation. One is specific to the 5300 block of 28th St to request that DDOT modify plans to install a modified bed of 40' (not 100' as originally planned). The other was more general in nature, calling on DDOT to reopen the comment period for the Broad Branch Stormwater Retrofit Project, to have project managers appear before the ANC to discuss proposed bioretention basins, and to ask that DOEE and its contractors ensure routine maintenance and continue to support the partnership with the Chevy Chase community. **It bears repeating, in SMD 02 we have a handle on our 26 bioretention beds, some have just been replanted through our partnership with DOEE (which I roundly acknowledged a few weeks ago), and we look forward to picking things up in the spring.**
- **MPD, Second District has stepped up neighborhood police surveillance in response to the ongoing car break-ins.** Following our November 9 community meeting at St. John's College High

School, MPD, Second District has stationed camera cars at Oregon and Military to monitor car traffic entering the neighborhood. This effort will continue under the direction of Captain Darren Haskis.

**A shout-out to Terri Bollech**, one of my neighborhood liaisons (27th St), who has been very active in monitoring neighborhood activity after the early November stolen car on Northampton and 27th and recent car break-in at 27th and Nebraska. Terri has shared video evidence that we've been able to provide to MPD and also alerted me to a suspicious vehicle last week that prompted my 911 call. MPD arrived in minutes to the scene.

**Reminder to one and all:** call 911 if you witness any criminal activity and be sure when something happens to file a report. Also, kindly ping me to keep me aware.

- **The latest on Tennyson. Re 2717 Tennyson St.:** DOB (Department of Buildings) reports a new building permit was issued on Nov 27 to continue the redevelopment of the property. The owner is now on tap to provide a timeline, to be shared once received. DOB will conduct a follow-up site inspection this week to identify any violations needing correction. Meanwhile, they note they do not have the ability to compel the property owner to sell, and the issuance of the new permit confirms there's been movement. **This said, questions remain, and a huge note of thanks to Tennyson neighbor Bob Sheffield for running interference with DOB to try to get further clarifications on the exact status of the property.**

**Re road repairs to 2900-3100 Tennyson:** I continue to birdog this, including today (Dec 4) and Friday (Dec 1), when a neighbor called to say construction crews were on the street tearing into parts of the sidewalk. I went over, engaged the crews, and heard they were fixing places where the gas line replacement had caused damage. I asked about fixing the patches on the road. They said another crew would handle that. Which promoted my further calls to Washington Gas for an update. Story remains the patches will be fixed by Dec 10. We'll see.

- **The next leaf collection in our SMD is a few weeks away.** We're in Section A, which had the first pass at leaf collection a few weeks ago. The leaf crews are now in Section C in Wards 1-8. Leaf collection will begin in section D on December 11. Our next round will follow. We'll get two weekends' notice – to rake leaves to the tree box or curb. I'll keep you posted. You can also go for updates to DPW's [leaf collection tracker](#) and pop in your address.
- **Neighbors near St. John's might have noticed increased street parking by St. John's students.** St. John's is re-doing their field, which is their auxiliary parking area for students. Although there is another place for them to park on campus, some students are parking on the street instead. The field will be completed after the first of the year, so the issue will be resolved. Until then, the school is being as diligent as possible to instruct students where and how to park. If issues arise, be in touch with me, and I'll reach out to the school.

## Events

- **Visit Christmas markets across the area.** WTOP has produced a great [list and map](#) of local Christmas markets open through December 23.
- **Be sure to attend the [Chevy Chase Christmas Winter Market](#) this Saturday, Dec 9, 1-5 PM** along Connecticut Avenue. Participating businesses will have festive specials and activities. Local vendors will be up and down the avenue.
- **Take the Labyrinth walk at St. Columba's tomorrow, Dec 5, 7-8:30 PM**, 4201 Albemarle St. Walks are indoor or outdoors, weather permitting, with candlelight and live music provided by Harmonic Introductions. Walkers of all ages, faiths, and abilities are warmly welcomed. Further details available [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**

*Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner*

ANC 3/4G Single Member District 02

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 **ANC 3:4G Alternative Draft Resolution (120623 Mtg).pdf**  
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