



The Washington, DC region is great >> and it can be greater.

**2018 Greater Greater Washington ANC Candidate Questionnaire**  
 Ward 4 Responses (**bold** = Endorsed by GGWash)

First Name	Last Name	ANC	ANC/SMD
Douglass	Sloan	4A	4A01
Stacey	Lincoln	4A	4A02
Iris	Parks	4A	4A02
Stephen	Whatley	4A	4A03
<b>Patience</b>	<b>Singleton</b>	<b>4A</b>	<b>4A04</b>
André	Carley	4B	4B01
<b>Evan</b>	<b>Yeats</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>4B01</b>
<b>Erin</b>	<b>Palmer</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>4B02</b>
Tanya	Topolewski	4B	4B02
Natalee	Snider	4B	4B06
<b>Geoff</b>	<b>Bromaghim</b>	<b>4B</b>	<b>4B07</b>
Alice W.	Gilmore	4B	4B07
Alison	Brooks	4B	4B08
James	Thomas	4B	4B08
Tischa	Cockrell	4B	4B09
<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>Nugent</b>	<b>4C</b>	<b>4C01</b>
Ulysses	Campbell	4C	4C03
Debbie	Matties	4C	4C05
Benjamin	Underwood	4C	4C05
Bennett	Hilley	4C	4C06
Krieg	Rajaram	4C	4C07
<b>Kim</b>	<b>Varzi</b>	<b>4C</b>	<b>4C07</b>
Tinothy	Jones	4C	4C08
Tearsa	Coates	4C	4C09
Steven	Feingold	4C	4C09
Jonah	Goodman	4C	4C10
Renee	Bowser	4D	4D02
Aaron	Polkey	4D	4D03
Jonathan	Nobil	4D	4D06

Name: *Douglass Sloan*

ANC and Single Member District: *4A01*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the Walter Reed redevelopment?**

That there is affordable housing for seniors, good use of greenspace and access to the grounds for area neighbors.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the future Target development site on Eastern Avenue?**

That clear routes of access and egress for vehicular traffic exist for the Target parking lot and adjoining streets and that there is not a negative traffic impact on the existing neighborhood.

**There are areas in our ANC where persons experiencing homeless regularly tend to gather. How would you address this situation as a commissioner?**

Ensure that homeless people in the area have access to shelter, food and homeless services provided by DC Govt and non-profit orgs.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I am not in favor of removing on-street parking designated for neighborhood residents for vehicular traffic or bike lanes. I feel it disturbs the quality of life for neighborhood residents.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

ANC 4A-01 is all residential and the majority of my neighbors do not favor new bike lanes or new sidewalks where they are not pre-existing.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I favor affordable housing in DC. An ANC should support moderate density development with affordable housing in every development that comes before them. ANC 4A-01 has no apartment buildings, duplexes or semi-detached units and is comprised entirely of single family homes.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

The biggest issues in my SMD are road repairs and maintenance, US park and yard maintenance and theft from autos.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I have prior experience as an ANC as I served 15 years as an ANC in both 4A & 4B. I have served as Chair, Vice-Chair & Treasurer in those ANC's. I was effective at facilitating a smooth implementation of the Walmart mixed use development at South Dakota and Riggs Rd., NE & I ensured that the developers and Walmart addressed the concerns of the residents throughout the process.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I always work to find a compromise between the needs of the community and the best interests of the city.

Name: **Stacey Lincoln**

ANC and Single Member District: **4A02**

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the Walter Reed redevelopment?**

My hope for the Walter Reed Development Project is that it is a worthwhile and useful addition to the District and the community. My concern is the large developers headquartered outside of the District and not partnering with small minority District based companies that work as subcontractors so that D.C. Residents can become employed and earn a decent wage. I truly hope the affordable housing will really be included in the project and not a mere designation for financial gain.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the future Target development site on Eastern Avenue?**

My hope for the future Target is that it will be a necessary addition to the city and community. My concern is that more people outside of the District will be employed there. Additionally, I'm concerned about the increase in traffic and potential crime element that may result.

**There are areas in our ANC where persons experiencing homeless regularly tend to gather. How would you address this situation as a commissioner?**

D.C. does not have loitering laws so people are free to gather. As an ANC Commissioner I would attempt to address this by engaging the homeless to understand their needs and concerns so as to refer them to the appropriate social program.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I would approach this by speaking to residents and possibly petitioning the neighbors on the pros and cons related to the issue.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I would petition the community to understand this issue better. Vision Zero has not been discussed in my area much but I would advocate for a variety of transportation options that are economically convenient and safe.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

As an ANC Commissioner I often advocate for truly affordable housing. The neighborhood can contribute by being patient and understanding as this issue evolves and be more accepting to the demographic changes.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

Increase in crime in all areas, thefts, gun violence, home and auto break-ins and better response from the District in providing city-services.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I believe I am the best person to represent my SMD because I take command of the issues that affect the community. I represent a sense of fairness regardless personality and my own personal views.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I don't have a specific example but there are few and rare occasions that the majority can be on the wrong side of an issue.

Name: *Iris Parks*

ANC and Single Member District: *4A02*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the Walter Reed redevelopment?**

My hopes are that the redevelopment will bring diversity, employment to DC residents an opportunity for all who desire to use the facilities. My concerns are pedestrian safety and traffic control.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the future Target development site on Eastern Avenue?**

My hopes regarding the future Target development is job opportunity for the Shepherd Park residents and security. My concerns are the lack of communication. How did the Shepherd Park Community end up with a Target? Were there any compromises? Will Shepherd Park residents get a copy of the Target traffic Plan.

**There are areas in our ANC where persons experiencing homelessness regularly tend to gather. How would you address this situation as a commissioner?**

In addition to the Northminster Presbyterian Church; I support the new homeless shelter at the Walter Reed Facility. Also I support the affordable housing at the Tacoma Place.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

Street parking is always a problem on the Eastern Avenue. The Churches complain about not having ample parking during the weekday. I would advise the church officials to have the members park in the nearby business parking lot.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I would like to see a bicycle lane on Alaska Avenue to 16th Street and to Rock Creek Park. The path would improve the traffic flow and decrease potential pedestrian accidents with cars. In my Small Member District, at the Walter Reed Campus, if one of the gates is made for pedestrian only entrance would only help account for Vision Zero goals.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

As stated earlier , I support the Northminister Presbyterian Church homeless program and the new homeless shelter at Walter Reed. Also, I support the affordable housing at the Tacoma Place.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

[did not respond]

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I have been a Shepherd Park resident for 18 years. I love the Shepherd Park Neighborhood. I am committed to serve as the ANC -4A02 SMD for the next two years. I will represent the office of ANC with the highest standard of ethnics. I will listen, investigate, collaborate and advocate for the Shepherd Park Residents. I will make informed decisions for the greater good of the residents. I will keep Shepherd Park residents informed.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

Recently I supported a neighborhood business by voting to grant a liquor license to a well established restaurant. Some neighbors opposed the liquor license because of the owner's ethnicity.

Name: **Stephen Whatley**

ANC and Single Member District: **4A03**

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the Walter Reed redevelopment?**

My greatest hope is that the Walter Reed development results are diverse and provide economic opportunities and lifestyle amenities (shopping) that are found in Georgetown, Capital Hill and Palisades. The residents and businesses should reflect the broad diversity of the city.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the future Target development site on Eastern Avenue?**

My major concern is the lack of adequate vehicular access from streets other than Kalmia Street NW. In addition, my one hope is that the Target becomes the northern anchor of a vibrant corridor of amenities from Kennedy Street to Eastern Avenue.

**There are areas in our ANC where persons experiencing homeless regularly tend to gather. How would you address this situation as a commissioner?**

As a commissioner I was at the front end of planning for homeless facilities at the new Walter Reed. ANC 4A, under my leadership, voted to support veterans and other homeless facilities at Walter Reed. Secondly, I was instrumental in the request for TOPA funding for Takoma Place apartments.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I was instrumental in removing 3 on-street parking spaces on Walter Reed side Georgia Avenue between Fern Street and Elder Street. The parking spaces impeded the movement of buses and vehicular traffic. The problem was the backup at the Walter Reed entrance - Elder Street NW gate. My proposal led to the curb lane being used for entry. The new bus stop was located closer to Dahlia Street NW where there wasn't a vehicular entrance. The removal of the 3 spaces led to increased efficiency for both buses and other vehicular traffic.



**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I anticipate that the Walter Reed campus will need new bicycle lanes and sidewalks. In addition I have requested that 2 of the entrances to the Walter Reed campus be made non-motorized. Non-motorized vehicular traffic is in line with Vision Zero which calls for zero traffic fatalities.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

ANC 4A has played a major role through its resolutions for affordable housing on the Walter Reed campus. In addition, ANC 4A, under my leadership, supported TOPA funding for the Takoma Place apartments which provides affordable housing.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

The biggest controversy in my neighborhood is how to continue to maintain a rich diverse community, including businesses at Walter Reed and along Georgia Avenue from Kennedy Street NW to Eastern Avenue NW. I have been at the forefront in leading the discussion on attracting and maintaining a diverse population of businesses.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I have led my SMD for 20 years. I have dealt with numerous complicated issues in a fair and equitable manner. My vision in 2 years is to have a vibrant residential, business and school community with the types of amenities available in Georgetown or Palisades.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I once had that exact situation. The Nile Ethiopian Restaurant and Market wanted to open on Georgia Avenue NW and serve alcohol. There were some who opposed "those people" being allowed to drink in our neighborhood. I expressed my dismay at that attitude and worked out a voluntary agreement between ANC 4A and Nile that some of the community continued to oppose. ANC 4A supported my position and the Nile has been open over 10 years and there has never been a problem.

Name: *Patience Singleton*

ANC and Single Member District: *4A04*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the Walter Reed redevelopment?**

The Walter Reed complex, which is slated for development over the next 10-20 years, is expected to bring increased shopping, housing, employment and entertainment options within walking and biking distance of many neighborhoods in ANC 4A. I hope that it not only spurs further development along Georgia Avenue but also serves as a vibrant hub for community gatherings and engagement. The anticipated town center, great lawn and other venues and structures are much needed in ANC 4A which many complain currently lacks a place for large community gatherings that help promote community identity and cohesion. In addition, it is my desire that the affordable housing for seniors and market rate condos and apartments slated for the campus will provide opportunities for long-time residents to remain in Ward 4, which currently has a high percentage of elderly neighbors, as well as attract new residents. Despite the potential benefits of this development, I remain concern about the quality of the retail that will eventually be placed on the site and whether some elements of the project may be responsive to the needs of the community. For instance, two major grocery chains have already announced that they would not come to the project. Moreover, ANC 4A has repeatedly advocated for increase local business participation in the construction and design of the complex. Although Walter Reed is not located in my SMD, I am closely monitoring the development and have offered my opinion on various proposals related to family- and senior-friendly uses for sites within the complex.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the future Target development site on Eastern Avenue?**

I hope that Target on Eastern Avenue will help to revitalize the Upper Georgia Avenue business corridor which has struggled for nearly 50 year by bringing quality retail and job opportunities to DC residents. I envision Target serving as an anchor for development around the building akin to what has occurred along 14th street in Columbia Height. As the ANC 4A04 commissioner since 2014, I have promoted business and economic development. I worked with entrepreneurs seeking to obtain necessary licenses to open coffee shops, dessert bars, and other businesses within my SMD. I have also attended meetings with local entrepreneurs and publicized resources available through DC government and nonprofits for local small businesses, including the Great Streets initiative. I am committed to continuing to work with the DC government and the private sector to improve the quality and expand the availability of businesses. As with most development, I am concerned about potential parking problems and traffic congestion in the surrounding community and hope that the ANC 4A will urge developers and the DC government create a plan to address these issues.

**There are areas in our ANC where persons experiencing homeless regularly tend to gather. How would you address this situation as a commissioner?**

Unfortunately, homelessness impacts many communities in the U.S. and we see homeless individuals throughout many neighborhoods in the District of Columbia. According to a recent national survey, over 550,000 individuals experience homelessness each night. Addressing the challenges of homelessness is complicated and multifaceted. I have devoted considerable time over the years to combating and eradicating homelessness. I served on the board of an organization that provided transitional housing to homeless women and their children in SE DC and have raised money to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness. As commissioner, I have worked with neighbors who expressed concerns about homeless individuals in and near our neighborhood. We have attempted to obtain services for some individuals and in the case of homeless individuals that present a public safety concern, we have requested that MPD intervene. I am committed to working with entities within DC government that have control over the budget – the DC Council and Mayor’s Office – to provide additional funding for services (including mental health) and organizations that aid homeless individuals. I will continue to advocate that the city spread the housing for homeless individuals across all Wards in the District rather than confining or concentrating such housing in certain neighborhoods.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I have advocated for improved bus, transit and bicycle infrastructure in my SMD. In the case of improved bus transit, I have previously expressed support for a dedicated bus lane for 16th Street during morning and evening rush hours and worked with other ANC commissioners to designate an express bus along 14th Street. In order to improve cyclist safety, I have also supported bike lanes along Piney Branch and would support them along portions of Georgia Avenue and 14th Street. In addition, I worked with a constituent who petitioned for the installation of Capital Bikeshare in our neighborhood which did not require the elimination of on-street parking. Given the high density within certain parts of my SMD, lack of close proximity to a metro station, and shortage of available parking in the evenings, I would only support removing certain parking spaces along 14th Street in my SMD during day time hours. I would engage my neighbors to ascertain the best locations and the time frames. Since my SMD is only 6 blocks long and 3 blocks wide, I would obviously need to coordinate with commissioners in adjacent SMDs.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

The safety of my constituents is a top priority. A significant portion of my time as a Commissioner has been devoted to advocating for the implementation of traffic calming measures throughout my SMD. For instance, I have requested that DDOT reassess petitions for

speed bumps along blocks that were previously denied, organized a neighborhood walk through with DDOT engineers to identify potential traffic calming methods, and successfully advocated for better signage and crosswalk markings along 14th Street. In addition, I have reached out to various city agencies to ensure that sidewalks in my neighborhood are repaired and that dangerous trees on city property are trimmed or removed. I would like to see some bicycle lanes placed along portions of 14th Street given the pending development of Walter Reed and the installation of flashing pedestrian beacons at the intersection of Piney Branch and Sheridan Streets NW. Vision Zero priorities for my SMD include creating safe streets through better traffic calming methods and protection for vulnerable users. My SMD is bordered by two major commuter routes—Georgia Avenue and 14th Street. As a result, many of the streets serve as cut-through routes and experience dangerous speeding on a regular basis. I have found the current process for requesting traffic calming methods to be cumbersome and that requests rarely result in neighborhoods receiving the protection they need from speeding cars in residential communities (DDOT stated that only 5% of requests for speed bumps are approved). Installing traffic calming methods and mobile speed cameras could go a long way in protecting the many seniors and children who live in the neighborhood and walk to schools and recreation centers. In addition, increased parking enforcement along commuting corridors could also reduce accidents.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

The ANCs serve as advisory bodies. As such, ANC 4A could take a larger role in encouraging the City Council and Mayor's office to provide additional funding for affordable housing in all Wards of DC, enforce inclusionary zoning for new market rate residential developments, and support programs that preserve and expand the supply of affordable rental and purchase housing. Given all of the new developments in the city, better enforcement of inclusionary zoning requirement and eliminating of some of the exemptions could be the first step to increasing housing affordability for many. In addition, we will only tackle housing affordability in this city if we make sure that it is spread out to encompass all neighborhoods (particularly those that currently have high rental rates and costs and/or have high rates of displacement) rather than confined to certain neighborhoods. I think that ANC 4A is far ahead of most ANCs in contributing its fair share of the affordable housing that our growing city needs. Hundreds of units of affordable housing are slated for the Walter Reed complex, a number of apartment buildings suffering from disrepair have received funding from DHCD and converted to affordable homeownership to provide stable housing for families, and Emory United Methodist Church has constructed a new affordable apartment complex on Georgia Avenue in the SMD adjacent to the community that I represent. I hope that other communities are urged to also take their fair share.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

I would not characterize the concerns expressed by my constituents as controversies. That said, residents have raised a number of concerns including increased traffic calming measures, parking enforcement, nuisance properties, improved quality of shopping near the SMD, and increased police presence in the neighborhood. I have been responsive and worked with constituents to request speed bumps for their blocks, resident permit parking restrictions, fines for nuisance property owners, visits to local grocer store to advocate for improved customer service and cleanliness, and increased patrols of streets and alleys in the late evenings and early mornings.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I am the best person to continue to represent SMD 4A04 because I am the only candidate that has been continuously active in the neighborhood, attends neighborhood meetings, and has a keen understanding of current community issues and needs. I listen to the needs of my constituents and have been responsive to every problem and issue brought to my attention. I have recent record of accomplishments in the neighborhood, a vision for the future of Brightwood, and can draw upon my expertise in law as well as economic development and housing policy that will be needed as the neighborhood undergoes tremendous change over the next decade. I am the only candidate who is independent and will continue to hold developers accountable, encourage transparency, and advocate for projects that benefit our neighborhood. My vision for the neighborhood in two years includes retaining its family-friendly character with added and improved retail, housing, and commercial options within walking distance. I also hope that increased enforcements actions against nuisance multifamily and single family property owners result in improved physical appearance and cleanliness of sections of the SMD. Lastly, I envision a neighborhood made safer for walkers, bicyclists, bus riders and car drivers because of additional traffic calming methods and speed enforcement. I understand that DDOT is undertaking a Ward 4 wide traffic study and await the results and recommendations.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

As ANC commissioners, we take an oath to “consider each matter before me from the viewpoint of the best interest of the District of Columbia as a whole.” As a consequence, I have always factored in the impact of my advocacy on the entire community even though the opinions and needs of my constituents are paramount. While I have not been faced with advocating on behalf of an issue or position for my SMD that has run counter to what is good for the city at large, if such a case were to arise, I hope that I would be able to convince my

constituents that a particular position would be problematic for most residents in Washington, DC. and encourage them to modify the proposal. That is why I find it disappointing that other ANCs do not appear to take this oath seriously. I have been dismayed by the reaction of some ANCs to the Mayor's plan to close and demolish DC General and place the residents in shelters in each Ward. Shelters in Wards 4 (on Kennedy Street), 7, and 8 are slated to open this year but there appears to be legal and political opposition from residents and ANCs in at least 2 other Wards. As residents of this great city, we have a collective obligation to address society problems like homelessness. I have made it clear to city leadership that this sacrifice should no longer be borne by residents who live in three or four Wards-- which already have shelters. I hope that despite the opposition, city leadership follows through on the promise and commitment to place shelters and families in all 8 Wards.

Name: **André Carley**

ANC and Single Member District: **4B01**

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

I have serious reservations on the development of the Takoma Metro parking lot. The area around the Metro station is already densely developed. Do we really need another multi-unit building there?

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

I have always been a strong supporter of community policing. The Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) act is a continuation of the community policing philosophy with a much needed public health component. I am lucky to live in a community that has such positive, strong ties with the police department. I will continue to support the community and law enforcement as I have done over the years as an officer of the MPD 4D Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), and by participating in community associations such as Safe Takoma, Inc, Concerned Neighbors, Inc. (a North Takoma Community Association), and the Federation of Citizens Associations. I intend to maintain a close working relationship with the leadership and officers of the Metropolitan Police Department 4th district, IMHO the finest police district in the city.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

This is a tricky one. What I feel is needed is communication and cooperation between the residents of our community, the ANC, the appropriate government agencies and developers. A real estate developer simply not designating dedicated parking spaces will not change the reality that people will want to own cars. "Walk able-Livable" is a nice slogan but belies the reality that America's love affair with the car is alive and prospering in DC. Alternative, reliable transportation choices have to be made available to the public. RPP parking has to be more vigorously enforced, especially along the streets surrounding the upper Georgia Avenue business corridor. People are frustrated essentially having to pay to park on their streets only to see non-RPP stickered autos parked for long periods (sometimes for days) without consequence.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

I feel the old saying: “Moderation is the Key” applies to this issue. I don’t consider all developers as spawn of the devil incarnate, nor am I a supporter of static growth. All dynamic systems must evolve or die. A neighborhood is no different. Most of the residents in the historic district want to live there and understand that certain regulations apply to the outward appearance of their property(s). In 4B we used standing committees to help the commission deal with issues of zoning and public infrastructure. The committee(s) consisted of subject matter experts who live in the neighborhood and were most effective in assisting the commission in finding common ground between the community and developer, or resident vs. resident, or agency. 4B also avails itself of the expertise of the Historic Preservation Office.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

There has to be community input and “buy-in”. A great example would be the work necessitated by the Metro Branch Trail route. The community, ANC4B and DDOT moved things along thanks to communication and cooperation between the residents of our community, the ANC, the appropriate government agencies.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

Dedicated bike lanes could be useful along the upper Georgia Avenue business corridor as well as dedicated bus travel lanes. I advocate bike lanes on the northern end of Blair Road, which would double as a traffic calming measure. Utilizing reliable public transportation options and emphasizing pedestrian/bicycle/automobile safety and awareness and vigorously enforcing existing traffic laws can realize vision ZERO, with its goal of having zero traffic pedestrian and bicycle injuries.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

ANC 4B has always been a strong advocate of affordable housing. By working with the community, respected government agencies and developers 4B has often formed alliances between these groups that have benefited the community at large.



**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

There are several, most notably a recent spike in criminal activity. The institutionalization/commercialization of residential neighborhoods (homes as rental properties and “group homes”, etc) is also a concern. The proliferation of entertainment establishments along the upper Georgia Avenue corridor requires constant monitoring. Finding a balance between resident and visitor/patron parking is another, especially along the aforementioned upper GA business corridor.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What’s your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I have been serving my community as ANC for two terms now. I am asking for a third. As someone who was already active as a community advocate before my transition to elected public service. I have well-established positive working relationships with community residents, neighboring SMD’s and commissions, council members and staff, government agencies and law enforcement. My vision is simple. Moderate sustained sensible growth for the residential and business community. I humbly ask the residents of 4B01 for another term so that I can use my bureaucratic/institutional knowledge to help the previously mentioned entities help us.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

This question partially defines the dilemma of the ANC. That is to bridge the gap between aspiration and reality. I try to balance the needs of the many versus the needs of the few. It is not always easy and is definitely not a “one size fits all” equation. The relatively recent debate over the dog park at Takoma Recreation Center is an excellent example of a divisive issue. Sometimes the ANC commissioner has to take on the role of the “bad guy” for the common good, and hope that eventually he or she will be vindicated if not forgiven.

Name: *Evan Yeats*

ANC and Single Member District: *4B01*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

I'm excited by the opportunity to create a new community asset out of the underutilized and unattractive surface parking lot. I'm also pleased that there appears to be a consensus that the green space/park area directly in front of the metro should be preserved (it should also be reinvigorated to serve as more of a park-like space, which is a separate challenge). Now, the question becomes what do we want to see built in that space. My priorities for new development in my SMD (of which this lot is part), especially for government-owned properties like this one, are affordable housing that can support families. This is a prime location near a metro that can provide substantial workforce and family housing that doesn't come along often. Any variances for increased density beyond what's allowed under zoning should include substantial commitments to increase affordability in the neighborhood. After a plan that was definitely a mistake (two car garage townhomes adjacent to a metro station?), the current plan appears to be on the right track. We should push to ensure that this development occurs, but that it also delivers housing for Takoma residents of all income levels.

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

I believe strongly in community engagement to reduce crime. I spent five years in emergency services and two years working for a police department. That experience has only reinforced my belief in community engagement and the obligation of police in the nation's capital to be a model for the rest of the country. Therefore, I've been deeply disappointed by the District's failure to implement the NEAR Act. While it's important for everybody to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods, it is clear that MPD's crackdown-style of policing characterized by "jump-outs" and confrontation has done little to make our neighborhoods safer and has alienated much of our community. Additionally, MPD needs to get out of their cars and out into our neighborhoods. The metal boxes they spend 90% of their time in separate them from our community. If we're going to increase our police presence, it should be police officers on bikes and on foot. It will also help police understand how our neighbors experience their own streets and may change their enforcement priorities.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

While I believe there is less available residential street parking, there is simply not a shortage of residential street parking in the Northern part of ANC 4B. We have ample parking and there are not significant concerns that can't be addressed through adequately enforcing existing regulations like zone time limits and ROSA. For instance, most of the blocks immediately surrounding the Takoma Pool/Recreation Center are unzoned and widely used by commuters, but there is parking available on those blocks. In addition, this is the fourth neighborhood I have lived in across the District, and it has the most plentiful and easily available parking in my experience. Most parking concerns I have heard from neighbors deal with inadequate enforcement of existing regulations, not a desire for new or different parking rules.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

The historic district is both a blessing and a curse for ANC 4B01. It's tremendously advantageous in that many neighbors have found a voice for community concerns through the HPRB process, however, because it only applies to part of the SMD it creates tremendous inequity in the amount of influence some members of our community have over developments they are living with. Additionally, sometimes it can be used as a cudgel to prevent otherwise needed developments and sometimes the changes requested have nothing to do with historic preservation. While I'm a strong believer in the role of the community voice in a changing neighborhood, we can't preserve a neighborhood in a growing and changing city in stasis forever. It's always a challenge to balance the needs of growth with desire for historic preservation and both are worthy goals. We can't allow it to be used as a way to push less-desirable or less-well-thought-out development onto certain parts of our neighborhood.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

Generally, I believe this is a favorable trade-off for the community. Bus and bike links in Takoma are critical, and as I stated before that there is ample street parking in 4B01. This would be my approach as we struggle to complete the long-overdue Metropolitan Branch Trail through 4B01. I would also support expanded bus lanes on Georgia Avenue all the way to the Maryland border, because the limited pilot by Howard University has been a success, in my opinion. I would also like to see the Piney Branch bike lanes extended all the way to the Maryland border as a part of a comprehensive traffic calming initiative for that road. The limited exceptions that I would entertain are specific community facilities that need curb access to serve special need populations - like seniors and those with mobility challenges.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

For far too long, 4B01's roads were designed to move out of state commuters rather than meet the needs of the neighbors that live here, which has not been good for our community. The completion of the MBT has to be a top priority for ANC 4B. Progress has moved at an inexplicably glacial pace. The reconstruction of the intersection of Cedar/Blair/4th has been pending since design was complete in 2013. This is another project that is way overdue, and the ANC can be a valuable voice to accelerate construction at an intersection that is inhospitable and dangerous to the thousands of pedestrians that pass through it every day and is a major route to schools. In addition, the street crossings in front of the metro station have been neglected and are in major need of a refresh, starting by painting and raising the crosswalk in front of the Metro. These projects are the border between ANC 4B01 and 4B02 and are ripe for a collaborative effort to improve a central inflection point for the neighborhood. I also firmly believe that the Piney Branch corridor, especially by Takoma Elementary School, has been dangerously neglected by DDOT. There is no reason for a road that has been traffic calmed and narrowed across the border in Maryland should be widened and sped up as it goes by our major local school. I've been working as a citizen to get DDOT to repaint the crosswalks and bike lanes along the road, as well as ensuring the school zone lights are in working order - but it's a difficult and lengthy struggle. The school zone goes completely unenforced, the crosswalks and intersection at Piney Branch and Dahlia are dangerous for both pedestrians and cars, and pedestrians at the major route to access the school (Piney Branch/Cedar and Cedar/5th) should not have to use beg buttons.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I'm a strong advocate for increased affordable housing in Takoma and in my SMD. We have a metro stop right here, and we can handle the density, especially when built on underutilized lands. We should push to have developments provide more than the legal minimum of affordable housing in every case possible. ANC 4B has already significantly contributed to increased density in our neighborhood (in part due to overly restrictive policies next door in Takoma Park, MD) which has helped form the thriving neighborhood we enjoy. I think opponents of all increased development and density believe that the core local businesses that serve as the backbone of our community depend on foot traffic to survive. This moderate increased density can help our local business district that we love continue to grow and thrive in the future.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

I believe it's not a neighborhood-specific, but a citywide one: Initiative 77 and the attempt by some councilmembers to repeal it. My position is simple: I support it, I voted for it and I believe it should be implemented as written.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I'm a fresh voice and face in an ANC that has often been riven by infighting and ineffectiveness. Meetings have been contentious, and the discord on the commission plays out through the neighborhood. That discord has also led to the ANC being ineffective in advocating for the needs of the neighborhood. Much of the power of the ANC comes from being able to collaborate to put pressure on city agencies to raise the profile of needed changes in our neighborhood. Because of the inability to collaborate, our ANC has been unable to do that effectively. I hope over the next two years to work collaboratively to rebuild our ANC into an effective and functional voice for our neighborhood.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I come from a labor and organizing background, which often means building consensus around tough issues that cast the interests of one subgroup against the interests of another. In those cases, it's important to build a track record of open and honest communication, even when there is disagreement so that when you make your decision people know they have been heard even if the decision isn't the one they want. As an elected official, I'll hear all citizens, even if they are advocating for a position that I disagree with. I also think it's important to treat citizens as adults, that's why I believe we have to be open and honest about where we stand, even when we disagree. Our city and our interests are broader than just the one neighborhood, and it's the responsibility of every elected official to consider the broader interests - especially the interests of those that for varied reasons aren't heard as often or as loudly. This can mean that doing the right thing may be perceived to adversely impact your neighbors. Locally, I see this issue occurring with the construction of homeless shelters across the city. While they serve a broad city need, many are objecting to having them in their neighborhood, but we have to have social support services across the city, and not concentrated in certain areas.

Name: *Erin Palmer*

ANC and Single Member District: *4B02*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

I strongly support redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot that maintains and enhances our neighborhood's inclusiveness, diversity, and strength of community. We have seen significant demographic shifts in terms of who is leaving and who is coming into the neighborhood, and we should strive to maintain inclusivity and diversity. Redevelopment by the Takoma Metro should include a mix of unit types, including family units, as well as a mix of affordability levels, including affordable and deeply affordable units. Creating additional housing options for families and more affordable units by Metro addresses our city's growing housing needs while increasing equitable access to public transportation and reducing congestion and pollution. Redevelopment by the Takoma Metro should also address consistent traffic and pedestrian safety concerns. The 2013 redevelopment plan reduced the number of parking spaces from 90 townhouses with 2-car garages to approximately 200 units with 0.7 parking spaces per unit. Future redevelopment plans that recognize the area as a multimodal transportation hub and emphasize Metro access and robust and reliable service should similarly minimize parking to the extent possible. In addition, redevelopment should include reconsideration and implementation of safety improvements for the 4th / Cedar / Blair intersection (which have been the subject of planning for years) and green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff (like that on the 100 block of Kennedy Street, NW). The community has expressed the desire for community-serving spaces (such as meeting / event rooms, retail, and restaurants) and activated green space. Community-serving spaces would be valuable at the Takoma Metro redevelopment since the ANC supported a variance substantially reducing zoned retail at the Takoma Theater. Redevelopment should also seek to activate the area's green space. While the green space is lovely and contains many mature trees, it remains unused and could be enhanced by thoughtful design.

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

As Commissioner, I will address crime and public safety by supporting implementation of and resources under the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act, specific Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) reforms, and community-building efforts. I strongly support the NEAR Act, which promotes a public health approach to crime prevention. As a member of the Manor Park Citizens Association Executive Board, we passed a resolution urging full implementation of the Act. As Commissioner, I will seek to educate the community regarding implementation of and resources provided under the Act (including through regular outreach by relevant officials regarding progress and outcomes); pursue efforts to ensure full

implementation of the Act and inclusion of our community, where appropriate, as a recipient of specific resources; and gather and share community input with relevant officials. To hear firsthand about MPD's operations and opportunities for reform, I participated in MPD's six-week Community Engagement Academy. During this program, I learned that a large percentage of MPD officers are not from DC and are unfamiliar with DC culture and the neighborhoods they police. As Commissioner, I will advocate for mechanisms that promote hiring of MPD officers who are intimately familiar with the neighborhoods they police, as well as cultural immersion programs for officers from outside the area. I believe neighbors who engage with and support each other are the backbone of a strong community. Community-building events bring people of all ages and backgrounds together and create important connections, allowing neighbors to support each other to prevent crime and mitigate its impacts. For example, when hate flyers appeared throughout the neighborhood, I coordinated with Collective Action for Safe Spaces to provide a neighborhood bystander intervention training and organized with neighbors to write messages of love and inclusion on sidewalks. These events brought neighbors together and empowered neighbors to take action.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

As Commissioner, I will promote a multi-modal transportation network that includes public transportation, biking, and walking. I am a lifelong non-driver who is intimately familiar with the challenges of getting around DC. Each leg of my commute presents challenges: my kids and I encounter uneven sidewalks and missing stop signs when we walk to the bus stop; we face inconsistent schedules and changing requirements for children to ride the bus; cars speed around us when we exit the bus and streets are congested around the school; cars are regularly in the 4th / Blair / Cedar intersection when I have the right of way; and I struggle with Metro reliability. As Commissioner, I will continue to talk to neighbors about how they get around the neighborhood and the city, and what would encourage them to drive less. I will share information regarding public transportation services (e.g., obtaining a SmarTrip card for children to replace the DC One Card) and improvements (e.g., new bikeshare stations) to encourage their use. In addition, I will exert pressure on government entities to improve services (e.g., 311 requests on behalf of neighbors) and enhance the ability to bike and walk (e.g., by advocating for implementation of safety improvements at the 4th / Blair / Cedar intersection). More broadly, I will advocate for legislation that equitably incentivizes the use of public transportation, biking, and walking, like the Transportation Benefits Equity Amendment Act, which I supported as a Board Member of the Kennedy Street Development Corporation. Supporting strong local communities can also mitigate traffic. For example, supporting neighborhood schools and advocating for community-serving amenities can ease traffic as more families walk and bike to schools, neighborhood parks, libraries, and recreation centers. In addition, building connections among neighbors can increase carpooling and other ride-sharing options.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

As Commissioner, I will balance historic preservation with the need for additional housing through support for infill development with context-sensitive design. Historic districts serve the important purposes of promoting investment in the community and enhancing pride of place. The Takoma Park (DC) Historic District contributes to the neighborhood's unique character and strong sense of community. Historic districts can have negative impacts on the accessibility and inclusiveness of neighborhoods, however, by limiting development of additional housing and concentrating wealth based on home ownership. One way to balance the potential tension between historic preservation and inclusive and diverse communities is support for the development of non-contributing properties and vacant lots with context-sensitive design. Two recent proposals within the neighborhood provide good examples: (1) demolition of a non-contributing house to develop a multi-unit building (6914 Willow Street, NW), and (2) development of 114 units of affordable senior housing on an empty lot (218 Vine Street, NW). Such development contributes more housing, some of which is affordable, by taking advantage of unused and underutilized space. Review by the Historic Preservation Office, the Historic Preservation Review Board, and the ANC ensures that the redevelopment is compatible with and enriches the neighborhood's character. The most important example where infill development is possible and extremely beneficial is the Takoma Metro. As land close to a transportation hub, some flexibility regarding density in exchange for more affordable housing in the neighborhood promotes inclusiveness and diversity within Takoma, as well as equitable access to public transportation. In addition, some flexibility regarding density by Metro promotes use of public transportation and may ease traffic and parking concerns. Thoughtful design and community-serving spaces can ease community concerns about increased density, as noted above in Question 5.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

Removing on-street parking can be controversial. Takoma is no exception, with its high population of seniors and families with young children who may depend on a car to move around the city. In addition, bike lanes are sometimes seen as symbols of gentrification and displacement, raising tensions between longtime and newer residents. Gathering data, testing proposals, and educating and seeking input from the community can address potential opposition. Parking surveys are a useful tool to determine how and when parking is used, and can reveal on-street parking that is underutilized and might better serve the community through another use. In addition, pilot programs allow the community to test run improved infrastructure, and if the infrastructure is well-designed, often demonstrate that a loss of parking does not significantly affect neighbors. Good communication with the affected community can ease neighbors' concerns and present additional solutions. Taking the time to engage neighbors directly and early in the process, to hear and understand their concerns, and to have honest discussions about balancing the transportation challenges they might face with



the benefits of the use of public space for bus transit and bike infrastructure can help build community consensus. The ANC can play a role in community education and outreach, as well as ensure government agencies are educating and engaging with the public. The removal of parking spaces at Sherman Circle is one example. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) conducted a pilot program and received community input about its proposals. The changes ultimately implemented include an added bike lane with a buffer and the removal of three parking spaces to improve bus stops that were too small and out of compliance. The pilot program allowed DDOT to collect data and showed neighbors the manageable impact of the loss of parking.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I would like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, and other infrastructure at the 4th / Cedar / Blair intersection by the Takoma Metro. Given the large population of seniors and families with young children, creating safe streets and protecting vulnerable users are top Vision Zero priorities for Takoma. The neighborhood has struggled for over 15 years to address safety, accessibility, and walkability at the 4th / Cedar / Blair intersection. DDOT has presented various conceptual plans over several years, which culminated in a 2015 curtailed proposal that DDOT presented as cost effective and easy to implement. Nonetheless, the proposed 2016 implementation of that plan was delayed to the spring of 2018. The community was informed after the fact that the delay was necessary to finalize the design and replace the contractor. No work has taken place to-date, and no updated timeline has been provided. While community input, design review, financing, and contracting take time, 15 years is unacceptable and no excuse for the lack of communication about the project. As a transportation hub, the 4B01 and 4B02 Commissioners, and the ANC as a whole, should act collaboratively to ensure DDOT provides timely and transparent communications to the community about the project's scope and timeline. The ANC should act swiftly and forcefully to ensure current promises that the project is moving forward are upheld and should seek evaluation of safety improvements once implemented. As Commissioner, I plan to hold regular "neighborhood walks" to better understand safety, accessibility, and walkability challenges and to strategize solutions, including sidewalk maintenance, traffic sign replacement, installation of bike lanes and racks, replacement of faded crosswalks (possibly with beautiful design, durability, and safety features like the crosswalks recently installed on Kennedy Street, NW), consideration of traffic calming measures, and bus stop upgrades.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

ANC 4B can play a role in addressing DC's housing affordability by building community consensus around and supporting new developments with larger percentages of affordable and deeply affordable units, as well as community-serving spaces and amenities. The current redevelopment of Walter Reed and future redevelopment at the Takoma Metro are crucial

opportunities to provide additional housing while supporting existing neighbors. As more changes come to the Georgia Avenue corridor (an area with many single-family residences that is zoned for greater density), the ANC can promote affordability and community-serving spaces and amenities at Walter Reed and the Takoma Metro. Redevelopment at Walter Reed has included affordable housing, including 80 affordable units for seniors at Abrams Hall and 75 deeply affordable units for chronically homeless veterans and other homeless individuals at the HELP Walter Reed Apartments, and the ANC should continue to seek affordability and community-serving spaces and amenities. The Takoma Metro redevelopment can provide additional affordable and deeply affordable units, particularly much needed family-sized units. The latest public process for redevelopment of the Old Hebrew Home is an excellent model for community engagement and how to attain large numbers of affordable units – there, 80% of 187 units. The community and the two relevant ANCs collectively dedicated themselves to affordable housing at the Old Hebrew Home and achieved results. The same is possible in Takoma. I would like to briefly mention the issue of homelessness. I am proud of the progress on and community support for the Ward 4 short-term family housing project (to include 45 family units). It has been disappointing to see delays by neighbors in other Wards, particularly in light of DC General’s closure. ANC 4B could work collaboratively with Commissions in other Wards to use the Ward 4 project as a model.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

The top issue I hear about from neighbors is the need to support neighborhood schools, including by (1) ensuring adequate school funding; (2) expanding before care, after care, and summer programming; and (3) promoting schools as inclusive public spaces for community use. Neighbors regularly note that per-pupil funding fails to address equity concerns, in part due to large discrepancies in parent teacher organization fundraising. Community building and outreach can expand donation networks to include residents without children and residents with children in schools outside the neighborhood. In addition, the ANC can bring attention to funding discrepancies and seek legislative change to ensure equity in school funding. Families regularly mention the challenges of securing and paying for before / after care and summer camps. Our school calendar is built around a system that does not accommodate working families with no stay at home parent (which inherently fails to recognize the growing cost of living in DC). Compiling data about the needs of families would assist in understanding how best to structure and expand before / after care and summer programs. In addition, expanding DPR summer programming would provide additional options for families struggling to find care over the summer that won’t break the bank. I also hear a lot about the community’s desire to use school spaces. School facilities are often centrally located and can serve as meeting spaces. For that reason, many ANCs hold their regular meetings at schools. Families also want to use playgrounds and fields at schools, as recently demonstrated by requests to unlock the Powell Elementary School playground. My discussions with neighbors about schools include many other issues worthy of the ANC’s attention, including healthier school food and reducing food waste; safe drinking water; simplifying volunteer processes; expanding dual-language education; and improving parent engagement, including with non-English speakers.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

My history of community engagement; dedication to accessible and transparent government; and ability to work collaboratively make me the best person to represent ANC 4B02. I currently serve on the Board of the Manor Park Citizens Association and the Kennedy Street Development Corporation, where I have organized meetings to discuss and give feedback on local legislation; gathered government, non-profit, and advocacy groups to share resources with neighbors; and engaged in countless conversations with neighbors to learn more about the issues that affect their lives. Throughout my community work, I have been dedicated to making political engagement and government more accessible and transparent. For example, I regularly host educational events on local issues and service activities that include a play date to encourage families to participate. In addition, to help expose children to local government, my partner and I organized a lobby day for kids at the DC Council, where more than 50 kids from across the city shared their views with councilmembers. Importantly for ANC 4B, where internal tensions have mounted, I am a good communicator who can handle difficult situations and work collaboratively. My experience working with groups of individuals with diverging backgrounds and perspectives has taught me the value of bringing people together, finding common ground, and building bridges. In a city with changing demographics, an ANC Commissioner – particularly one who is white and a non-native Washingtonian – must try to understand the city's racial dynamics and be able to engage respectfully and constructively. My relationships with Commissioners across the city and experience advocating before the DC Council and government agencies has shown me the broad impact a Commissioner can have. I envision an active and collaborative ANC that strives to educate and empower constituents, acts on broad issues affecting the neighborhood, and operates transparently and effectively.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

The Takoma Triangle Park at 4th Street, NW, and Blair Road, NW, is an example. Here, a public space was fenced off and made inaccessible to deter loitering and public drinking. Previously, this Triangle Park consisted of an open space with trees, foliage, paving, and benches. Neighbors complained of individuals who loitered and drank in public, and the city ultimately erected an expensive wrought iron fence, enclosing the Triangle Park, limiting public use, and effectively removing the individuals who loitered. Erecting the wrought iron fence around the Triangle Park succeeded in removing these individuals, but not without cost and impact on the public good. A space intended for public use is now a closed off from the public (although there have been efforts to activate the space). More importantly, erecting the fence and closing off the space failed to account for or address the root causes of the loitering and public drinking. The individuals who loitered in the park are out of sight, but they are likely spending their time in other public spaces. I believe it is incumbent on all elected officials to seek to address the

root causes of loitering, public drinking, and crime. Efforts to ensure housing stability, a living wage, educational opportunities, mental health services, and even public restrooms can provide the supports necessary to limit these issues while respecting and upholding people's humanity. Rather than moving challenges from one place to another, let's engage in the difficult conversations necessary to build community support for and advocacy around social services and resources for our most vulnerable community members. Notably, the Pocket Park at Florida Avenue and North Capitol Street, NW, where a group of individuals loiters and drinks in public, was similarly fenced off. I hope this is not become a citywide trend.

Name: *Tanya Topolewski*

ANC and Single Member District: *4B02*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

I am a sustainable real estate developer and urban design professional focused solely on DC. Given my background, I have many concerns about the development of this site. First, there is no master plan. To me, the greatest risk the community runs is the eventual loss of all green space as WMATA develops each section of the site piece by piece. Instead, with a long term focused community planning process, green space could be permanently protected within a variety of development scenarios that are embraced by all stakeholders. Second, the last proposal concentrating on developing the parking lot created a physical disconnect from the rest of Takoma. With a master plan, the entire area from Carroll/Cedar could extend the urban fabric right to the front door of the Metro (and include green space!). Piecemeal thinking in this location really shortchanges what could be a permanent enhancement for downtown Takoma and great for WMATA too. Further, if memory serves, the last iteration had no retail on the ground floor. This IMO is a mistake. Takoma is an area with nearly 0% vacancy for commercial and retail properties which is a testament to its commercial viability. It is also a vibrant market aching for more places people can walk to, shop and eat. No retail would be a loss for Takoma that would never be recovered. Lastly, other transportation options including MBT access, dedicated places for car sharing drop off/pick up, bike/scooter sharing (both docked and dockless) need to be planned into this space. Some of these options did not exist when the last plan was proposed. These new transportation realities are likely to change what will now be acceptable to the neighborhood at the site.

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

I have an intense amount of respect for officers who risk their lives walking into unknown situations every day to keep me, my family and my community safe. That being said, MPD is an institution with a long history and difficult baggage. However, that does not excuse them from keeping up with the current desires of the community when it comes to how they do their job. That includes more reliance on data collection and decision making, connecting people with resources outside of their silo, research that shows de-escalation practices keeps violent crimes at bay and outreach to at risk people dissuades them from becoming criminals. All of this and more is in the NEAR Act. As a current Commissioner I also see a significant disconnect between MPD and the community. I constantly review the basics with constituents: report all crimes via 911. I shouldn't have to do that. MPD should be making their current protocols crystal clear to people and they don't. MPD should make sure people know their local officers and they don't. And while I know my police liaisons because I go to Police

Service Area meetings they are invariably empty which means people don't know their police force and MPD really doesn't try to change that. A stark example: MPD advertises their PSA meetings on their own listserv which most people do not belong to. When I asked MPD to please start posting their meetings on our four local listservs which reach >10,000 constituents, they flatly refused to do this. Aspects of the NEAR Act would require closer coordination with the communities the MPD serves. This, I welcome, because the small example I gave above shows where MPD's current policies keep them at arms length from the community they serve. This needs to change and I believe the NEAR Act is one way to do that.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

As a Commissioner I am well acquainted with DDOT's wiley ways. I've supported many constituents in their quest for traffic calming studies, stop signs, speed humps, restricted parking and other traffic calming measures. Working with DDOT is an ongoing push-the-boulder-up-the-hill experience. However, I will continue to work with constituents and demand better service from DDOT, no matter how painful. I strongly supported the new express bus line from Takoma to points south...but that one change is not enough. I would advocate for more bus options from our growing area. In particular, 4B02 needs dedicated bus or shuttle service from Walter Reed to the Metro. Otherwise our residential streets will bear the brunt of continual cars passing through to the Metro and back as the Walter Reed Redevelopment is built. Lastly, I've watched with great interest the rise of Uber/Lyft ride sharing, CartoGo, docked and dockless bikes and scooters. Surely there will be more "last mile" solving options to encourage more public transportation use. The trickle down effect of this is that the single family homes that dominate 4B02 can truly thrive on one car (or less!). I am particularly excited by the idea that these new transportation options provide a healthier way for residents to live. Most importantly, on my list of things to do is to ask Uber/Lyft to do a marketing campaign targeting seniors in 4B explaining their service. Many people as they age struggle with driving safely and now we have more options for people to stay at home yet still be able to get where they need to be with ease. These services can be godsend for healthful ageing in place. Over time, I hope one consequence of these services will be easier, more productive discussions about how much parking people truly need.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

I have sat on ANC4B's Design Review Committee since its inception. Most of the cases that we hear are projects/homes going through the historic review process. I wanted to be on this committee because I'm a passionate believer that thoughtful design solutions can solve most problems in a way that is palatable to all and good for keeping the integrity of Takoma's Historic District intact. However, it takes people with design skill to have these discussions with developers and homeowners lest the conversation devolve into unreasonable demands and hurt feelings. Because I am a design professional I have the ability to have conversations

focused on improving designs that work for all through a clearly defined, manageable process for applicants. Because I am a developer I also have the ability to demand more from applicants in a way that gets results. (And I also have the ability to raise Cain when absolutely necessary, which I find I seldom have to do.) Always, my goal is to make sure thoughtful, tailored development that is in keeping with character of 4B's historic district is implemented. I think projects the Design Review Committee has reviewed and my work as part of that committee have come out better for our collective critique.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

We have not had this specific situation come up in 4B02. However, in general, I would work with the DDOT designers to locate the infrastructure to minimize the parking space loss. Importantly, I'd then speak directly to the people/owners who are most affected and hear their views. I'd then hold community meetings to see what everyone else thinks/wants and speak with/for the most affected people so that their points are clearly heard (and the meeting doesn't devolve). For those who could not attend, I'd reach out for comment on listservs and social media so that people can provide input in a variety of ways. If most supported the loss of parking, then I'd advocate for the majority solution with my fellow Commissioners accordingly. The reality of change is that not everyone can be satisfied. As a Commissioner, I'm beholden to what the majority wants and that is what I advocate for. The key is to reach out via a variety of methods to gather input. I've always felt that a reliance on meetings only to gather input limits who participates and that really does the neighborhood a disservice. I often use our robust neighborhood listservs, social media to seek input from constituents. Then, when I advocate I can talk about how many people supported or (didn't) a proposal and not just espouse the desires of a limited few. Getting input from many helps other Commissioners make decisions based on what constituents want...which really is the goal of being a Commissioner.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

It has been a goal of mine as Commissioner to complete the MBT. I worked very hard with some other Commissioners to get the proposed alignment of the Trail on Blair Rd approved by ANC4B. However, the design of the section through Takoma has long been a source of tension, and now it is the only section left to align. I've already had multiple discussions with DDOT about both the eastern and western alignments and I see multiple opportunities to create a final trail placement that is acceptable to most. It is my promise, if elected, that I will spearhead a community effort to decide on an alignment and advocate for funding for that final phase of design. To make this happen, I've already had ANC4B send a resolution to the Council asking for funding for the design of the last segment of the Trail in the 2019 budget. Additionally, I've pushed DDOT for additional connections from the planned alignment of the MBT along Blair Rd into the neighborhood. Takoma Recreation center, Coolidge High, our new

middle school, Whittier Education Campus, Capital City Charter School, and the retail on 3rd St should all be easily reachable from the MBT, but they're not in the current plan. Therefore, I proposed (and many in the neighborhood support) a spur off the trail that I've called "the Rec loop" from Blair and Aspen down 3rd. This "loop" will connect all of the abovementioned locations. It's these connections that will make the MBT more valuable for 4B constituents by providing safe off street paths to the places many travel to daily. These connections will also eliminate hundreds of car trips every day...it's a demand we need to make with DDOT, otherwise we're really only getting half the benefit from the MBT than we should.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

As a sustainable real estate developer in the District of Columbia I've found my background to be extremely valuable to the community in many ways. Specifically, it allows me to see opportunities to push for affordable housing where most don't. Here are four places I've advocated for affordable housing:

- 1 I pushed for the Engine 22 Fire Station at Georgia and Butternut to become a mixed-use building (affordable housing over the firestation). My efforts failed because the ANC at the time did not understand what they needed to do to change the course of the project. It's one of the things that inspired me to run for a ANC seat, to make sure opportunities this this are not missed.
- 2 I am currently assisting a building in 4B02 that is seeking DHCD financing through the Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA). This financing is competitive and its important (yet shockingly not a given) that ANC4B will take a strong stand demanding this project be selected.
- 3 I've asked for affordable housing beyond the required minimums at Walter Reed.
- 4 I've supported developers who have proposed affordable housing in ANC4B get through our unwieldy ANC. To be frank, we have long time Commissioners who do not understand the basics of the development process. Their actions have actively thwarted affordable housing projects in 4B. Fighting this kind of insanity keeps me on the ANC.
- 5 Lastly, outside of my role as a Commissioner I've also advocated for changes in the Inclusionary Zoning law specifically to allow developers who want to participate in IZ the ability to opt in. (This was thankfully adopted.) Affordable housing is tough to do. The ANC needs to be on point supporting every possible opportunity that comes up. I'm on the ANC to make sure that happens.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

ANC4B has two longtime Commissioners who have effectively paralyzed ANC4B by their actions. For example: In 2015, Commissioner Judi Jones (4B07) sued ANC4B for slander and abuse of process. In a nutshell, the ANC followed the process to remove her from the Secretary position because she refused to perform her duties. Both of these lawsuits were dismissed, twice, because of lack of a claim (two judges said the ANC did nothing wrong) or evidence (she provided none). These lawsuits are paid for by taxpayer dollars...she frivolously sued the ANC on YOUR DIME! Another Commissioner actively votes against items with strong community support (funding for the pool at Walter Reed and the Met Branch Trail) because she cannot



separate her dislike of one Commissioner from her duties to her constituents. These same Commissioners: Spout conspiracy theories that have no basis in fact Verbally attack presenters from various agencies Lie, accuse other people of lying and threaten other Commissioners Get into tiffs with their own constituents who come to the ANC asking for help Aggressively interrupt, talk over and disrespect other Commissioners This list goes on and on. Why are they still in office? Because ~50 people show up at ANC meetings yet 20,000+ vote. The vast majority of voters are completely unaware of their behavior. So I started posting these facts on our community listservs and encouraging new people to run as Commissioners. I'm proud to say we have many new faces on the ballot in 4B. My listserv posts have been controversial. Yet, I am not a person who sees injustice and can walk away, doing nothing; especially injustice that impacts our entire community. Voting in new people will fix many problems ANC4B has. So, to everyone reading this: find out who you can vote for, their history and USE YOUR VOTE WISELY!

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I have a few goals for the upcoming two years if I were elected again to serve: Get new candidates in this election elected! (OK, that's a next 60 day goal...but it is my top priority!) Complete the design of the last phase of the Metropolitan Branch Trail through a robust community process Continue to facilitate active discussions about complex topics for the neighborhood because they shape what we will become Lastly, because of ANC4B's current Commissioners makes dialogue and progress almost impossible with a new crew of Commissioners I would focus on: Restarting and supporting a robust committee process in ANC4B. We need our committees operational and vibrant. They do the detailed analysis and work ANC Commissioners cannot do. Currently they have been suspended because of the inaction of a few Commissioners. This does a grave disservice to 4B and needs to be rebooted. Creating a communication plan for ANC 4B based on maximum transparency and comprehensive communications strategy. We need a new, operational website, videos of our meetings, live streaming and an accurate log of our body of work. If I and other Commissioners do not have to deal with dysfunction, we can bring ANC4B to the level of communication constituents all desire. Just focusing on these goals would help ANC4B leapfrog into 2019 instead of being stuck again in a cycle of dysfunction. That is my simple goal as a Commissioner: MAKE 4B GREAT AGAIN! OK...forgive me for that small bit of snark :). However, I am passionate about good process and ANC4B needs great improvements in this area. With some thoughtful voting, ANC4B could become the beacon of progress that 4B deserves but does not have.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

As an experienced development professional with a deep background in urban and sustainable design my approach is always the same: find and share facts and educate everyone. Recently, a serious community safety related issue occurred. The Walter Reed redevelopment is demolishing the 2.5 million square foot hospital and residents in my SMD had serious concerns about demolition dust. All of a sudden, our multiple local listservs lit up with a combination of legitimate concerns, speculations, hyperbole, assumptions, outrage and more. My response was to a) talk to the people with the concerns and understand their main issues, b) call a meeting and work hard to get all of the right people from the development team and the city in the meeting (which was a minor feat in itself) and c) actively facilitate the meeting to get everyone's questions addressed. Facilitation allowed me to highlight useful facts such as the highly planned and regulated demolition of this extremely large building. With basic facts as a baseline understanding, as a group were able to pinpoint specific issues and come up with discrete follow up items. This could have very easily been a meeting where emotions ran high and frustrations higher, satisfying noone and leaving hard feelings all around. Instead, everyone who had a comment had a chance to dialouge, people learned from the panelists and each other and items for follow up were agreed to. It was a productive meeting on a very important topic. I have a unique background that allows me to bring all the stakeholders to the table and facilitate difficult discussions to productive ends. Given Takoma is an area that has multiple sites poised for more intensive redevelopment, I can help make discussions about these projects not get bogged down in the emotion and passions of narrow interests but be helpful and productive for all.

Name: *Natalee Snider*

ANC and Single Member District: *4B06*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

I would like to be a part of community meetings, listen to ANC4B constituents and advocate for a thoughtful redevelopment of the lot.

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

I support the NEAR Act, I recently started a Manor Park Neighborhood Watch and host community cleanups to get neighbors out talking and working together for safer cleaner community.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

My Single Member District consist largely of residential homes with parking in the rear of the homes. Our major issue with traffic is the speeding of vehicles. With that said, there are still concerns with parking. I believe many of the development should include underground parking so we do not lose on-street parking.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

My Single Member District does not contain any historic blocks or communities, but we are adjacent to the Takoma Historic District (not in my SMD). I would advocate both listening to the most affected community members and ultimately relying on a balanced approach with whatever data is available at the time.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I would be in favour of routing bicycle lanes on streets that can handle both. We have a large active senior population in our community, removing on-street parking can be an unnecessary burden on them. This is why I supported the MBT Trail going up Blair Road versus taking on-

street parking away from North Dakota Avenue, which was suggested by a few of my colleagues.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I would like to see new protected bicycle lanes on Blair Road, Kennedy & 3rd Street, NW from Petworth to Takoma Park. My top Vision Zero priority is reducing the speed of vehicles driving through our community with creative DDOT streetscape.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I believe our ANC can and should support denser housing options on major thoroughfares like Georgia Avenue. We supported building a brand new Fire Station but didn't fight for housing above the Fire Station. Mixed used developments can be used to address the affordable housing crisis.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

The biggest controversy in my Single Member District was the Metropolitan Branch Trail. I support a thorough review of the plans and want to see the trail built.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

As a new commissioner, I had to learn quickly that there are opposing views on just about everything. I will make it my mission to continue listening to all the affected stake holders and advocate for honest, transparent solutions. In 2 years, I would like to be part of creating a newsletter and updating our website to help foster a better form of communication between our ANC and the constituents we serve.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

The Metropolitan Branch Trail was a very divisive issue within my ANC. Many constituents wanted the trail but were understandably concerned with traffic congestion in front of their homes. I worked with our Public Works Infrastructure Committee to host meetings and walking tours to get constituents as much information as possible. Although a few constituents still did not want the trail, I saw the MBT as an egalitarian amenity that would be beneficial for both my

constituents and the District of Columbia at-large. ANC 4B voted unanimously to support the trail; I was happy to lead that effort. When constituents have a very narrow view on projects I will always listen and try to see if there is room to compromise. With the MBT the compromise would be advocating for a safe trail and possibly running the trail through the National Park Service but the answer for me was never to not have the trail.

Name: **Geoff Bromaghim**

ANC and Single Member District: **4B07**

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

I am aware that WMATA has long attempted to develop this site, and also that it has generated considerable controversy along the way. While previous plans have failed, it is fair to assume WMATA will eventually try again. I wouldn't positively or negatively prejudge any new proposal for the site. When a proposal came before me, I would do my best to notify all my constituents, solicit feedback, and ultimately, reflect their views. I strongly believe this is the intended role of the ANC -- to act as the voice for the thoughts and concerns of the entire neighborhood. For the WMATA site, the previous attempts have resulted in a very well informed base of residents. If a new proposal for this site is issued, my first step would be to listen to those who have become expert in the potential issues presented by the site and respect all the work that has already occurred. It's also worth noting that this site isn't within my ANC district [it falls within 4B01], so I wouldn't be the only concerned commissioner involved on the matter. All of that being said, Takoma, like the rest of DC, is growing. I don't believe the highest and best use of that real estate will be to remain a paved lot in perpetuity. Having a reasonably-sized building in that space would mirror the development that has occurred on the other side of the tracks, and development that enables greater use of mass transit is preferable to anything that increases traffic on our already choked roads. Greater density in the area would also be a boon to our local businesses and help lure new retail to the area [a priority for many local residents but as demonstrated thus far at the Takoma Theatre project, one that hasn't always been easy to attract]. Furthermore, with all the growth, gentrification, and upward pressure on housing prices in DC, new developments represent an important opportunity to integrate at least some new affordable housing units. As ANC Commissioner, I wouldn't be opposed to developing the site, though there are several conditions I would push for -- incorporating a reasonable level of parking, development height consistent with other nearby buildings, preserving the green space across from the metro station, and the addition of some ground level retail. Most importantly, I would only proceed after I have done very thorough listening to all of my constituents. [For more about my background and approach as an ANC candidate, please visit my website [www.GeoffBforANC.com](http://www.GeoffBforANC.com)]

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

I appreciate and believe that addressing crime as a public health issue is a very forward thinking and responsible approach. Labeling individuals with risk factors as being in need of support and allowing for preventative measures to occur will lessen the likelihood that community

resources and funds are used for punitive and non-restorative endeavors. This being said, neighborhood crime is a real part of urban life, and we deserve to be in a community where we feel safe and supported by our law enforcement and public health officials. As stated earlier, my role as a commissioner would be to address community concerns about safety and health, not to push a particular agenda. First of all, this would involve engaging with DC's Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the Office of Neighborhood and Safety Engagement. I am most excited to work with the Community Crime Prevention Team for proactive conversations about community needs and meeting mental and behavioral health needs for individuals at risk. Additionally, both proactive and reactive conversations would be organized with other DC agencies, including Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Community and Regulatory Affairs, and Department of Housing. I admire the NEAR Act for its push for equity and police accountability while continuing the crucial work of keeping neighborhood streets and spaces safe. However, the use of the resources and subsequent meeting the requirements needs to be a regular conversation with the CCPT and MPD.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

Our community, and entire city, is growing, and, yes, traffic is definitely getting worse. We obviously can't force people to get rid of their cars, but we should do everything we can to create better alternatives and ensure that, even when streets are highly trafficked, that they remain safe. Otherwise, the more our region grows (outside or inside our ANC), the worse it will get. One solution is to do everything we can to improve the quality of our public transportation options. As a daily bus and metro rider, this is something I'm deeply passionate about. Every commuter who can choose to walk, bike, or take mass transit also helps alleviate traffic for those who drive, so we should generally view public/alternative transit improvements as win-wins. Where new development is concerned, we have to be well informed and deliberate about all the potential positive and negative impacts a particular project may have on our community. Traffic and parking are managed by DDOT and DPW. This being said, it isn't always easy to get them to actively/ quickly address concerns. I would not be afraid to push the commission to withhold support on items involving traffic or development without first receiving a thorough DDOT study about the potential impacts. On the north end of our ANC district, we are fortunate to have a metro station. If/when we're going to have new development, it is certainly preferable for those new residents to have easy access to mass transit options. To specifically address resident parking concerns, there are many areas of our city where increased traffic and development has led to the need for specific parking permits that are obtained only by your address/zone. DPW can be requested to implement Residential Parking Permit zones. Whereas much of our parking is currently the "Two Hour Parking with Zone x Permit Holders Exempted," we could research the need to move to "Zone x Resident Permit Parking Only" signage. As ANC Commissioner, I would be happy to fight for these changes where it is widely desired by residents on a particular street.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

The Historic Preservation Review Board obviously plays a key role in evaluating proposed developments. As stated in response to a previous question, I wouldn't positively or negatively prejudge any new development proposal. As ANC Commissioner, it would be my job to ensure the HPRB gets well-informed and well-considered input from our community. I would work to help solicit community feedback on a proposed development, and would then act as the voice for the thoughts and concerns of our neighborhood. The historic district isn't intended to prevent development, but it is our only chance to ensure that new development adds to the beauty and character of our historic-zoned areas. My wife and I have attended several of the meetings for the proposed 218 Vine St and 6914 Willow St developments in our historic district because we care about how this community develops. We should expect that there are many more sites within our historic district that will turn over sooner than later, probably for multi-unit residential development. When this happens, we need to be aware that it is our one and only chance to shape how our communities move into the future.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

This might be hard to generalize, as I think it ultimately would become a very situational issue based on the street in question. Like everything else, as ANC Commissioner I would work hard to gather and reflect the viewpoints of all residents in my district on how they think the space in question would be best utilized. Specifically regarding improving bus transit by removing on-street parking, I think this would primarily be an issue for our larger, more trafficked streets. For those situations, one important consideration would be how changes might impact local retail whose patrons might frequently utilize nearby on-street parking. Would a change increase foot traffic and patronage or be detrimental to it? It's a little different consideration than some of our residential side-streets -- where there aren't bus routes now and probably don't have the right density to support new routes regardless. I think it is generally easier for people to see what might be lost in a change than the benefits that could accrue, so I also view the job of ANC Commissioner as someone who can help explain and communicate both sides of any proposal.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

First off, I would really like to see completion of the Metropolitan Branch Trail. Perhaps it is easier for our bike commuters to visualize the benefits, but I really believe this project offers much broader, transformative value to our entire community. It would provide a new, safer place to walk, bike, push strollers, or exercise, as well as access local businesses. Other dedicated trails in our region, like Rock Creek, Sligo, or Capital Crescent Trails are not just



heavily utilized assets -- they are placemakers. And other dedicated trail projects that cut through urban environments like the BeltLine in Atlanta or the High Line in NYC show how these spaces can become a tremendous boon for local residents and retail alike. Walkable cities are healthy, friendly cities. Our district, just given its location, also has a number of arterial streets that are heavily utilized by commuters. The first and most important variable for creating safe streets is vehicle speed. Drivers have a natural inclination to try to get where they are going as quickly as possible, which is understandable, but it also creates a need for additional protections for our more vulnerable, dangerous spots. We should never be shy to request DDOT to conduct traffic calming assessments, implement lower speed limits or other traffic calming to create safe zones where warranted. I live next to a tricky intersection (the Aspen-Sandy Spring-Willow-Blair cluster), and I know first-hand the challenge of getting changes to enhance pedestrian safety. Know that as ANC Commissioner, I would be your fierce advocate to help communicate to and lobby DDOT to make our priorities their priorities. If traffic calming, sidewalk enhancements, etc. would be beneficial and generally desired on your street, I will hound the appropriate officials for you until these improvements are delivered.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

Our particular ANC district (4B07) has experienced continued growth in new condo and apartment housing. There have been multiple buildings with hundreds of units, and DC's Inclusionary Zoning requirements are an important tool for protecting the availability of affordable housing. In my district, I would start by learning and listening to reports from the Department of Housing and Community Development and DCRA. During ANC committee meetings, I would be a strong advocate for these requirements and for ensuring that persons in low-income housing situations don't get priced out of our community, regardless of their age or race. Housing is usually the largest, single most important expense in a family's budget. Quality housing allows for feelings of stability and safety, and when housing is stable, it allows for engagement in a community and building of local school and civic culture. We must do everything we can to keep housing affordable for our residents. It's only a matter of time before more sites in our district turn over. When they do, we need to fight for developers to include more than the required minimum of affordable units and embrace the proposals that do. My wife and I live directly across the street from a parking lot, and we consider it only a matter of time before it turns over. When it does, I would strongly advocate for the inclusion of additional affordable housing units.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

I'm not sure that it's the biggest controversy in our neighborhood, but my single greatest concern is that our ANC district, which is relatively narrow and long, incorporates two pretty distinct areas -- Lamond and Takoma. Because these are just somewhat different neighborhoods, it's natural for their residents to have different viewpoints, concerns and priorities. Because of this dynamic, I also think it has been and will continue to be a tricky area

for an ANC commissioner to govern. If elected, starting on day one, I will work to create more interaction between these two neighborhoods in our community. I would do everything possible to ensure everyone feels heard, respected, and equally represented. One thing I would do immediately is to hold monthly single member district meetings that alternated between locations on the north and south ends of our community. For example, rotating between meeting at the Lamond Rec Center and the Busboys and Poets meeting room. This is a small change, but one that I hope could create more regular interaction. We're currently living in an era of exceptional us-versus-them politics. I know of no better response than by getting more involved at the most local level, on a one-on-one basis, to work together for the betterment of our entire community.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I believe I would bring the temperament, commitment and skills necessary to be a capable ANC commissioner. The role of the ANC is to be the voice for the entire community for which it serves, and I am a hardworking and level-headed listener concerned with addressing and advancing the collective needs of our SMD. I want the ANC to be a transparent, approachable, responsive asset to the community. I want to bring an agreeable and consensus building demeanor to the 4B Commission, which I believe would help make the meetings more collegial, accessible in terms of time/ length, and, frankly, just more productive. Our 4B ANC has endured an unfortunate and dysfunctional last two years, as demonstrated, for example, by the suspension of our ANC committees. I want committees to be restored, directed and trusted. There is far too much to be done for us to not figure out how to all work together.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

It should be expected that individuals will be most passionate about the issues that directly impact them. That's only natural, and the ANC exists specifically so they have the opportunity to be heard. Ultimately, it is the role of the ANC commissioner to do his or her best to represent the views of everyone in their single member district. There should be no place for a commissioner that only represents the interests of a fraction of their constituents or works for their own personal agenda. Likewise, a single ANC commissioner is not charged with or elected to try to represent the entire city. In our ANC 4B, there are nine commissioners that represent their neighborhoods. Getting agreement between a majority of the nine doesn't necessarily mean our actions represent what's best for the entire city, but it is a higher bar and hopefully the matters that get agreed to by the 4B commission will represent what's best for broader city interests. If a situation arose where one community or ANC commission were actually standing in the way of the broader city-wide interests, it is then the DC Council's job to ignore the ANC and act in the interests of the greater good. Regardless though, if elected to the ANC, I would work to build a thorough, deliberative process that tries to engage and

consider the viewpoints of all of my constituents. Hopefully by trying to connect with the entire community, we would avoid situations where decisions are being tailored to narrow interests. [For more about my background and approach as an ANC candidate, please visit my website [www.GeoffBforANC.com](http://www.GeoffBforANC.com)]

Name: *Alice W. Gilmore*

ANC and Single Member District: *4B07*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

I hope to pull together 4B07 community and the developer to asked questions that parking lot.

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

The community will be involved no matter what, and that police etc.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

Again I say the community play a BIG part in all my decision and that mean show up to these meetings.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

We all must take part in the History of this community.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

Their are some community that we can't do anything about on street parking. We will talk about it with all home owner.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

Right now I would drive or walk this SMD-4B07 to make that decision. Top priorities is safety for all.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I must work with the community, than I can say how I can help with all area.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

Speeding, homeowner not taking of their property. Clean It Up.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I am for what is right for all, and I will fight for that right. We all must take parts in this SMD.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I live in this SMD, I am not going after any other position. If this SMD wont me to go their I will think very hard about that.

Name: *Alison Brooks*

ANC and Single Member District: *4B08*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

This redevelopment is outside of my single member district and I would defer to the single member district commissioner. I do support development as it brings additional vibrancy and amenities to our neighborhoods.

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

Public safety has been one of my top concerns. Everyone should expect to feel safe to in their neighborhood. As the President of South Manor Neighborhood Association, I have stayed in regular communication with officers of the Fourth District Metropolitan Police Department and have encouraged residents to participate in the DC Security Camera Rebate and Neighborhood Watch Programs.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

We have residents that like to bike, walk, drive, ride Metrobus or Metrorail. As a community we must encourage residents to think of transit as multimodal. For example, if everyone drives our streets would be overwhelmed with vehicular congestion. That just won't work well, so we have to do everything we can incentivize residents to consider greener modes of transportation.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

There is no historic district in my single member district and I would defer to the single member district commissioner. While I understand the importance of preserving the character of neighborhoods, I also respect the need for density. This growth enriches our neighborhoods with amenities as well as affordable housing. There has to be a balance and a need to look at situation on a case by case basis.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

For years now, there has been a debate about bike infrastructure, specifically the MET Branch Trail, in my single member district. Ward 4 should be a welcoming environment for all residents. Safety and accessibility are big priorities for me. I support investing in protected bike infrastructure, but it is important that community stakeholder voices are heard, included, and that we work together with neighbors, advocates, and Government to accomplish our shared goals.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

The MET Branch Trail construction has begun, which will greatly improve bike safety. I will advocate for sidewalk improvements on Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenues.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I support expanding opportunities for affordability housing. One way we can grow the number of affordable housing units is simply with greater density, which I support. Additionally, we need to think creatively. Accessory dwellings present a unique opportunity to create new affordable housing.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

Safe passage to school is a top priority. There are several schools within close proximity.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I am the best person to represent the single member district 4B08, because I am a consensus builder. I am happy to consider other points of view. For the next two years, I would like to work with residents to address concerns.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

ANC is an elected position. It must represent the community it serves. I will try to build consensus and work toward an outcome that best serves the community.



Name: **James Thomas**

ANC and Single Member District: **4B08**

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

The idea that local and regional stores would have an amazing opportunity to join our community creates a sense of happiness as we increase the employment opportunities for the community. As it relates to concerns, the traffic and safety and/or congestion has raised a red flag. I also would want to know how the redevelopment could affect the increase of gentrification & racial/economic segregation.

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

Increase in crime has been challenging not only in my SMD but across the District. It is important to build a relationship with MPD and agencies to collectively work on a solution. I believe that it is important to ensure constituents are involved in a strategy to decrease crime; 1) by organizing a network of block captains who would be certified. Each designated block captain would be responsible for sharing the information via email with the ANC commissioner and attend a monthly meeting to discuss resources needed on their particular block. 2) Coordinate monthly SMD walks with constituents and agencies to ensure proper lighting and quality life issues are addresses, real time. As an ANC commissioner and as the current Sargent of arms of the 4D CAC I would also have constant communication with the 4th District Commander and regular monthly meetings to update him on challenges and progress and report back to constituents. Near Act has 20 provisions that address various aspects of violence and implementation of various programs. Proper data should be shared to showcase the accomplishments and challenges. There is just not a clear understanding of the accomplishments thus far. As an ANC commissioner I would ensure constituents and many colleagues are kept updated on the progress of the Near Act.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

I would work with DDOT and other relevant government agencies to ensure an intense traffic calming study is done and ensure regular meetings with DDOT is a priority. This will ensure constituents are involved in the process and provide any changes made in real time.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

I would work with homeowners to meet their renovation needs with minimal disturbance to their projects also keeping in mind the historic nature of the neighborhood.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I would develop a survey and distributed it to my constituents in my SMD and anyone that would be affected by any changes to on-street parking to try to get as much feedback so that I could then come up with a stance on this issue.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I would like to see new sidewalks on 3rd St NE between Quackenbos and Rittenhouse Streets NE. I have been working with the residence in the area and the city to try to get this project on the books.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I believe that our ANC can work with the city to insure that all new housing developments have an affordable housing component if they have any city funding or if they are private work with the developer.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

I think one of the biggest controversies that affect not just my neighborhood but the city as a whole is the issue of school age kids that live outside of the city attending our school and taking seats away from kids that live within the city. I believe that the city had be very aggressive with investigating this issue and should have a zero tolerance policy

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I have worked with the ANC and other neighborhood and block organizations for years and I believe that I can work well as a representative from my neighborhood as I have relationships with many DC agencies and have work with them to address multiple concerns in my

neighborhood. In two year I would like for my ANC to get out more and work with the residence of our community to get them more engaged and involved

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I would present the issue to the whole ANC 4B body but as the same time try to work with the community member to see if there issue could be addressed in some other way.

Name: *Tischa Cockrell*

ANC and Single Member District: *4B09*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?**

I am open and willing to work with that SMD ANC and their constituents with whatever their hopes and concerns are for the redevelopment.

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

As an ANC who has publicly mentioned issues of crime in my SMD, I have been fully engaged in working with the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSEs) group, the Metropolitan Police's 4th District Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), and having participated in MPD's Community Engagement program, to help minimize the crime. From what I have experienced thus far, the current amended version of the NEAR Act seems to be more focused on finding out the issues that plaque our community's youth and find resolve to place them in a better path. I have physically walked with the ONSE group and listen to them do a fine job of connecting with the youth straight away. I believe if the current model continues as planned, with the right people who seem to understand how to connect, this program may have promise.

**Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?**

I always address these kinds of issues first by meeting with the community to hear their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions. Then work with our community association leaders to hash out solutions based on those suggestions. After all ideas have been considered and addressed, we as a community and citizens association, voice our concerns and demands to the developer and the involved District agency as a unit. Those agreed upon concerns are also brought to the ANC4B Commission in the form of a resolution by me for a vote backed by our Commission for the developer and District agency to adhere to.

**Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?**

For those neighborhoods that are historic, our ANC4B Commission works with the affected SMD ANC to be sure their constituent's concerns are addressed and heard. Several special

meetings are conducted and resolutions based on those suggestions and findings are written, submitted for a vote, and sent to the Historic Preservation board (HPRB).

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I would begin by conducting a neighborhood survey to find out if that is wanted and how it would affect or assist our neighborhood. Then, I would conduct a series of meetings inviting the DC Department of Transportation to discuss situations and to conduct a traffic study. In ANC4B, there was a vote for the Metropolitan Bike Trail in which several meetings were held. Although the trail doesn't affect my SMD directly, many residents participated in the many meetings and many also claimed to have not been notified of those meetings. I would ensure that as many residents as possible were made aware of those gatherings by posting the information on listservs, social media, and door to door community flyers drops to be sure every member of the community was made aware to get a clear consensus.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I am always considering the voices of my community before my own. I look to hear from them regarding where they would like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, etc. With that, I have heard discussions and noticed there are no sidewalks on one side of Kennedy Street, NE and 5th Street, NE. We are in need of better crosswalks near the school and recreation center and on Eastern Ave, NE going towards the shopping center. I have currently not heard any discussion or ideas about bike lanes. I would assume Eastern Ave and Riggs Road would be suggested streets if requested however, those streets are also quite busy and congested and could prove to be quite dangerous as well. Top priorities as discussed by our neighbors has always been the school crossing, traffic congestion at school pick up and drop off areas, and the heavy traffic at the Riggs Road NE, South Dakota Ave NE, Nicholson Street NE, 3rd Street NE, Eastern Ave NE, Peabody Street NE, and New Hampshire Ave NE intersections.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

Our community is currently going through a development boom. I as the current ANC, along with neighboring ANCs, as well as our neighborhood community citizens association, has recently worked well with our community and the most recent developments coming to our SMDs to request affordable units within the newest development. However, I'm not so sure that was accomplished in previous negotiations. In this current development in my SMD, I was sure to work closely with our citizens association, the involved District agency, and the developer to be sure as many of our concerns as possible were addressed and implemented including a request for truly affordable units. Surveys were conducted to assess community

concerns. A good number responded although we always wish for more. We were able to garner a few affordable units thus far and hope to get residents qualified.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

In my opinion, we have two big controversial issues in our neighborhood. Although public safety was listed, I'd like to reiterate that issue since we seem to be experiencing a rash of car thefts and shootings. These issues lead me to our biggest controversy of our long term residents and senior residents experiences of coping with extreme change. While change is inevitable and sometimes good, we should be tasked with being careful and mindful of change that while fielding new needs and new residents, also considers the culture and residential history of the old. I am very interested in ways to preserve and allow both. We need to implement ways to include development that does not completely derail community history by renaming communities to suit developers, raising costs of properties too high for previous residents to stay, making traffic unbearable for new and existing residents to navigate, creating business and police officers that continue to be neighborhood friendly, retaining and recognizing great weight for ANC in their communities, etc. Development can be good. We all wish for new stores and restaurants to sit down and enjoy, while we fellowship with and get to know our neighbors outside of meetings, we just need to work on ways to link the community residents, ANCs, District agencies, and developers to make sure each and every resident is heard and serviced properly.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I believe I am the best person to represent ANC4B09 bc I believe in listening and working for every constituent. New and existing, young and old, working and retired, etc. I have been working in the community and holding office in the community since I moved to Riggs Park. I've been a District resident for over almost 25 years and have seen much change. I remember what was, and am excited for what is, and what's coming. I have served in several capacities in my community and all over the city. I served as Second Vice President for our Lamond-Riggs Citizen's Association (LRCA) for four years and also served as Chair of that organization's Youth Development committee. I have delivered our neighborhood newsletter for over five years and still do so. I am a member of our LRCA Development Taskforce and have been for about five years or more. I served as Chair of the ANC4B Recreation Committee before becoming ANC and served as Treasurer of ANC4B after becoming ANC. I have also had leadership positions as Financial Secretary for the DC Federation of Civic Associations, Recording Secretary for the DC Federation of Democratic Women, President of the Metropolitan Democratic Women's Club, etc. I currently serve as Treasurer to the 4th District MPD Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) and member of Empower DC's steering Committee along with being the current ANC for SMD4B09. These positions have allowed me to write and vote for critical resolutions that aid our community, to testify at hearings in issues that affect our community, to fight for our community's interests, etc. I attend almost every meeting and am and have always been

committed to doing the actual work necessary and required to fully support each of my constituents.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I'd first start by asking, "Who determines what is in their narrow interest and what is considered a broader city-wide interest?" I think this needs to be a larger discussion within each community because each community's needs will vary despite what another community in the city feels affects them. For instance, two Wal-Marts in ANC4B applied for class B beer and wine liquor licenses. While one community quickly passed a resolution in favor of, the other community were not all in favor due to there being differing neighborhood factors involved and therefore needed to include other stipulations in the resolution. One could on the outside of either neighborhood could view the latter decision as a highly problematic position of change and development if all communities across DC did the same without understanding the dynamic of that community and why such actions were needed verses the other community in which such actions seemed unnecessary according to the choices and decisions of that ANC and their constituents. In my opinion, these decisions should be at the sole discretion of the affected ANC and their constituents wishes.

Name: **Charlotte Nugent**

ANC and Single Member District: **4C01**

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

DC in general and our neighborhood in particular are experiencing a housing crisis due to a limited supply of affordably priced homes. The only way to increase this supply and prevent displacement of our longtime neighbors is to build more affordable housing. I was proud to support the redevelopment of the Old Hebrew Home as an affordable housing development, voting with the rest of ANC 4C for the proposal with the highest number of affordable units (80%, or about 150 of 187 total units). We urgently need to build more such units in the Petworth-16th Street Heights area to keep residents from being pushed out of the neighborhood. If reelected as ANC, I will continue to support developments such as these.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

As Grant and Sherman Circles are not in my Single Member District (SMD) 4C01, and ANC 4C as a commission has not been asked to provide input on how to improve safety at these circles, I defer to my ANC colleagues in those SMDs and the opinions of residents as to how best improve the circles' safety and design. However, in general, I support efforts to improve transit in 4C that increase the transit options available—including biking, walking and public transit options—while also increasing safety, and that ensure transit is accessible and welcoming to people of all ages, races, genders, income levels and backgrounds.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

During my first term as ANC commissioner, I have likely spent more time on this issue than any other, addressing issues of safety and cleanliness that affect neighbors' quality of life and well-being. I have:

- Identified vacant properties: Identified over 10 properties in SMD 4C01 alone as vacant, leading DCRA to begin tax enforcement and oversee cleanliness, as well as holding them accountable for the large unsightly lot across from Emery Heights Community Center
- Negotiated settlement agreements: Secured 2 settlement agreements with Imm Thai restaurant and Lucky Corner Market, which are enforced through their liquor licenses and encourage neighborly behavior by the businesses
- Encouraged sanitation enforcement: Filed dozens of complaints with DPW leading to fines for chronically offending property owners, and coordinated rodent abatement by DOH for local residents
- Encouraged construction enforcement: Worked with residents to identify and begin enforcement on 3 instances of illegal construction, and held 2 meetings with residents and developers to ensure safe and orderly construction sites

I will continue to work hard to ensure our neighborhood is a clean and safe



place to live, as our collective thriving as a community starts with these basics. As for protecting neighbors from displacement, the best way to do this is to increase the supply of affordable housing in our neighborhood and across DC. Please review my response above to the question about the Old Hebrew Home, and below about housing affordability, for my position on increasing affordable housing.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

I have found that new and longtime residents of our neighborhood often have similar opinions on neighborhood development. All neighbors want to live in a neighborhood with a high quality of life, accessible transit options, and affordable housing. Even new residents typically do not want out-of-control development, skyrocketing housing prices, or the displacement of longtime residents. I believe the ANC's primary role in promoting community is to ensure that information is shared freely and frequently with neighbors, and that their concerns are responded to promptly, so that neighbors have access to the information they need to take action on issues important to them. To this end, I have built an email list of over 100 residents in my SMD to keep them informed of neighborhood news, and I add to it weekly. I have held many community meetings on specific topics, hand-delivering flyers to houses before each one to ensure that even residents not on my email list are informed. I ensure that all my flyers are translated into Spanish in order to communicate with the 15-20% of SMD residents who speak Spanish. And on key issues, I go even further, such as co-organizing the Ward 4 Gun Violence Summit in June 2018, bringing together over 40 neighbors to discuss how to address gun violence in our community. If reelected as ANC, I will continue to go the extra mile to ensure neighbors are informed, and to use my platform as ANC to organize events to give neighbors a chance to converse on key topics, thus strengthening our community ties.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

Our neighborhood needs improved transit options across the board. As commissioner, I was proud to be part of a group of local leaders who lobbied for the new "59" express bus on 14th Street, bringing a new, faster and affordable form of transit to our neighborhood. I used to be a bus commuter and I am also a car owner who parks on the street, so I understand the challenge of providing both enough parking and enough bus service and bike transit. Our Single Member District (SMD) 4C01 is located 1.6 miles from each of the nearest Metro stations, making bus, bike and car transit all very important to us. Bus and bike transit are especially important for our neighbors who cannot afford cars, who do not drive, or who choose to live a car-free lifestyle. If reelected as ANC, I will continue to support solutions that do not pit car drivers and transit riders against each other. If a decision to support or oppose a specific bus or bike measure comes before me (such as the Longfellow St. bike lane that DDOT has proposed but not yet acted upon), I will listen to the recommendations of neighbors about their needs,

along with recommendations of experts (such as DC government traffic planners) in making a decision.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

Walking and biking are very important to our neighborhood's residents, as our Single Member District (SMD) 4C01 is 1.6 miles from the nearest Metro stations. Additionally, the east-west streets in our area are plagued with high-speed commuter traffic as drivers navigate the major thoroughfares of 16th Street and Georgia Avenue and use our neighborhood as a shortcut. To address these challenges, I co-initiated a local neighborhood traffic study to review traffic safety in our area (along with Commissioner Maria Barry of SMD 4C02). The study led to recommendations for improvements at several intersections, 5 of which are on track to be implemented this fall, and represent "hot spot" areas in our SMD 4C01 where safety issues need to be addressed: Ingraham and 13th St NW; Longfellow and 13th St NW; Madison and 13th St NW; Madison and Colorado Ave NW; and Colorado Ave, Nicholson St and 13th St NW. I also supported DDOT's recommendation to install speed bumps on the 1300 block of Jefferson St. NW. Finally, I support the recommendations from DDOT's 2016 livability study of our area, including the proposal to place a bike lane on Longfellow St NW. As for Vision Zero, our neighborhood has one of the top 5 most dangerous intersections in the city—Kennedy St NW and Georgia Avenue. DDOT is currently working on a plan to improve safety at this intersection as part of the larger Kennedy St revitalization project and has released some recommendations for how to improve this intersection. I strongly support efforts to make the intersection safer and more transit-friendly, and if reelected as ANC would work closely with DDOT to implement these recommendations.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

We know that many new residents are moving to 16th Street Heights and Petworth. It is exciting that so many people want to call our neighborhood home, but it is critical that we build more affordable housing to accommodate all who desire to live here. At the same time, nearby business corridors such as Georgia Avenue, upper 14th Street, and Kennedy St NW have not seen as much development, and businesses on these streets sometimes struggle to gain and keep customers. This is because DC has not focused on encouraging development in the locations where it is most needed. Instead of waiting for condos and pop-ups to appear haphazardly, we should proactively encourage development – including affordable housing – in corridors like these, and in areas where zoning already allows taller buildings. I welcome the chance to have our neighborhood provide our share of local affordable housing development by encouraging it along these corridors. Building affordable housing development is not only the right thing to do; it will also provide more customers for our local businesses and help them succeed.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

While it is a great place to live, our neighborhood experiences far too much violent crime, including homicides and shootings, as well as a large number of people experiencing homelessness and drug addiction. As commissioner, I co-organized the Ward 4 Gun Violence Summit in June 2018 with several other community leaders, bringing together over 40 neighbors to discuss how to address gun violence in our community. If reelected as ANC, I will continue to advocate to address the root causes of crime, homelessness and substance abuse, such as limited access to jobs, workforce training, and substance abuse/mental health treatment for our neighbors in crisis. I will continue to encourage our leaders to move beyond shortsighted approaches that do not address these root causes, but only make a show of cracking down on crime by unjustly targeting youth and people of color and increasing their involvement in the criminal justice system. I am optimistic that DC's new Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE), set up with a specific mission to address gun violence with a proven, research-based public health approach, will help us address these problems in our community.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

No one will work harder than I to represent neighbors in our SMD 4C01 and across ANC 4C. As a former teacher, nonprofit worker and community advocate, I am a relationship-builder who respects and listens to all people. As your commissioner for 2 years, I have experience bringing people with different views together in order to find solutions that work for everyone. And I promise to continue to be accessible: I will be easily reachable by phone and email, available for meetings, and will actively seek input on issues facing our neighborhood. Please visit my web site to learn more about me at [CharlotteNugentforANC.com](http://CharlotteNugentforANC.com). If reelected as your ANC, I will continue to work over the next 2 years to address the priorities outlined at my web site and discussed above, including increasing our access to affordable housing and accessible transit; addressing the root causes of crime, homelessness and drug addiction; maintaining a vibrant neighborhood with a high quality of life; advocating for increased equity, quality and access to neighborhood educational programs and services; and supporting our local small businesses and entrepreneurs.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

A major challenge for any elected official is balancing the needs and interests of individuals with the needs of the district as a whole. An example of this in our neighborhood was the decision to make the 1300 block of Emerson St NW a one-way street to address the very high volume of traffic using that street as a shortcut during peak commuting hours. While I believe this solution

worked for this situation, it is obvious to anyone who considers the matter that one-way streets cannot be the solution for every traffic volume problem, or we would have a neighborhood of one-way streets that would be very difficult for everyone to navigate. I say this even though my own block, 1200 Madison, has recorded traffic volumes that rival those of 1300 Emerson and might benefit from becoming one-way! Instead, I support additional approaches to addressing problems of traffic volume and speeding, several of which will soon be implemented in our neighborhood as the result of the neighborhood traffic study I initiated (for more information, please see my answer above on improving transit infrastructure in our neighborhood). Overall, if reelected ANC, I will continue to make decisions that benefit the neighborhood as a whole.

*Name: Ulysses Campbell*

*ANC and Single Member District: 4C03*

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

ANCs 4C and 1A worked extensively on this issue. You may be aware that the Old Hebrew Home had been vacant for almost ten years. Various plans for redevelopment of the site have been floating about. The Spring Flats proposal that was approved by 4C and 1A responsibly addresses many issues of concern to the community particularly senior and affordable housing. The SMD rep from ANC 4C (4C06) worked on this issue in cooperation with the SMD rep for adjacent ANC 1A (1A07) to consult the surrounding community and provide an opportunity for their input. I believe the final plan will benefit the neighborhood and it has my support.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

My hope is that the Buffered Bike Lane and Safety Improvement Plan implemented by DDOT will be effective. Navigating traffic circles in DC is a challenge particularly for drivers unfamiliar with the patterns. I've driven through Grant Circle and have been generally satisfied with the improvements. The most important element here is that pedestrians, cyclists and vehicular traffic all be able to safely traverse the Circle. We'll need to continue to monitor the overall effectiveness of the work and notify DDOT should revisions to the improvements be required to ensure public safety.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

Residents most at risk of displacement may be best served by public officials supporting responsible development. Additionally, residents, businesses officials must work together to support the existing community dynamic during the transition brought by gentrification as the community dynamic evolves. Community engagement is the key to ensuring that public spaces are safe, clean and inviting. Officials must support neighborhood/civic associations, block clubs and other groups that foster community activism and involvement. And those groups must hold agencies such as DDOT and DPW accountable as well as taking action directly through volunteer clean up programs and activities.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

This is a question that everyone in areas that are gentrifying needs to consider. But first, they need to understand why it is important to build such community bridges. I'm unconvinced that

new residents and longtime residents recognize the importance and urgency of fostering the goodwill and understanding that lead to harmonious coexistence. I'll work to build that community by first establishing that it is in the best interests of all residents to do so. Afterwards we create opportunities for interaction and understanding.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

The residents in my SMD who have been most vocal are those in opposition to reduction of on-street parking. And, given the nature of the redevelopment that is increasing neighborhood density, I'd need to be convinced that bus transit could be improved somehow by removing on-street parking. Thus far I've only seen proposals that improve or support bike infrastructure through removal of street parking. I think this approach could work more effectively in areas that are more commercial rather than residential.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

Vision Zero is an initiative that has not been explored in 4C. However, as I've become aware of it I'm going to perform some research and bring the matter before the community.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

What is needed is affordable housing. A primary concern of mine is that what constitutes affordable housing in DC isn't necessarily affordable for many residents. A challenge is the availability of properties that can be developed by affordable housing advocates. Earlier this year I was in communication with Housing Up, a developer of affordable housing. What was expressed to me was a frustration that their organization was unable to secure properties for development in the current for-profit climate. This is a challenge I have yet to devise a strategy to address. Further consultation with affordable housing experts is necessary.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

This SMD is historically single family homes. Recently, we've seen considerable development that has converted what had been single family into multi-unit dwellings. I'm generally not in favor of such conversions.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I want to vigorously represent the interests of my constituents. I want to see responsible residential development. I want commercial development along upper 14th Street NW across from the bus barn and Georgia Avenue that serves the needs of the community. I want to promote community engagement and understanding. I want the residents to receive the full value of their tax dollars in services and facilities.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

All politics are ultimately local. And a familiar refrain is residents supporting positions that narrowly benefit their communities. However, I think that each situation has to be evaluated on its own. There isn't any single approach that addresses this issue. A measured, well-considered and thoughtful approach that takes into consideration the dynamics of the specific situation and the psychology of the players is necessary for a responsible position that, hopefully, leads to a broadly beneficial outcome for the local community and the city.

Name: *Debbie Matties*

ANC and Single Member District: *4C05*

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

I support mixed-income housing, with significant set-asides for larger low-income units that serve families.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

I live quite far from Grant and Sherman Circles, so I am not familiar with the pedestrian safety issues there. If elected, I look forward to hearing more about the issue and working with my fellow Commissioners to address it.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

The ANC should work with Councilmember Todd to advocate for more resources to renovate and maintain public spaces, such as the new community Meditation Park at 13th and Quincy. It's more important than ever to have a strong social safety net. We must work at every level of government, from local to federal, to preserve and expand existing protections. Homelessness results from a web of related economic and health factors. The ANC should help local social service agencies to identify residents in our community who are at risk so that they may receive the assistance that they need.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

Since I moved here five years ago, I have found long-time residents to be friendly and welcoming. While residents come from diverse backgrounds, we all have an interest in a neighborhood that is enjoyable. We should find new ways to promote dialog regarding residents' visions for the community. One way to do this is to make it easier for residents to learn about, attend, and participate in monthly ANC meetings. It also is important to hold social events, like the one periodically held in what is now the Petworth Meditation Park, to allow residents to meet each other and force a closer sense of community among new and older residents.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**



For high-traffic corridors, I fully support the additional parking restrictions for improved bus service, such as those that have been implemented on 16th Street. I attended public meetings for those changes and registered my support. I also support dockless bikeshare and scooters for two reasons - they don't require removal of on-street parking, and they are flexible to meet changing demands.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

Pedestrians crossing Spring Road at 14th Street are at risk because of turning vehicles and reduced visibility resulting from the presence of parked vehicles near the corners. Additionally, the crossing at Quincy and 14th Street needs an additional crosswalk, at the very least, to reduce pedestrian risk. Finally, some of the east-west streets in my SMD should be studied for speed bumps to calm traffic.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

The ANC, as an advisory body, should represent resident views on affordable housing to DCRA when new building projects are seeking permits.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

Because of the increased commercial activity on 14th Street, some residents are asking that a portion of on-street parking be set aside for residents only, as has been done in other parts of the city. This could be a workable solution, and I think that we should discuss it with a wider circle of residents.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I have been active in the community since moving here. I have, for example, rallied neighbors to submit comments in support of the express bus on 14th Street. I have participated in alley cleanups and neighborhood social gatherings. My background in political organizing provides relevant experience, and my advocacy for DC representation (and statehood) demonstrates my commitment to the civil rights of DC residents. I hope that our ANC will continue its already excellent work and strengthen its ability to make a positive impact on behalf of its residents in the areas of pedestrian safety, community, and housing.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I have been following with interest the controversy concerning the Meridian International Center. This is an example of how an ANC is not leading well. I understand that residents' first reactions to proposed changes in a neighborhood may focus on negative aspects of the changes. I think ANCs should be more productive by taking nuanced and balanced positions, and by helping residents better see the value of changes in addition to advocating strongly for residents' interests.

Name: *Benjamin Underwood*

ANC and Single Member District: *4C05*

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

It has taken a significant amount of time to come to a consensus on the redevelopment of the Old Hebrew Home leaving fallow a large portion of our neighborhood. The solution that they have ultimately come up will bring greater diversity -- inspired by the diverse community that has made our neighborhood such a unique place to live. It limits the amount of additional density to some extent, while providing affordable housing to seniors and families. Given the row home component, it will also help the development blend into the surrounding community. As the baby boom generation continues to age, senior housing for all income levels is a top priority. Additionally, the housing units that will be made available to families is important in our neighborhood so that the next generation has the opportunity to grow up in such a varied and diverse neighborhood. Petworth/Columbia Heights is a vibrant area with a significant amount of history and I believe it is important to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to be part of its future.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

The circles and the parks within them throughout the District give neighbors a unique opportunity to gather and outdoor public spaces. In order for that enjoyment to be fully realized, it is important that the parks are safe to visit and don't require a game of Frogger to access. There are many examples of thriving parks located in circles and squares throughout the city and I believe the community and the District government must continue to focus on traffic management, pedestrian safety and crime in these two specific parks. As they become easier to access and more enjoyable to use everyone's experience will improve.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

For many years the community policing strategy, which had really connected people, is something that we need to support again now that we have stronger leadership in the District. At City Hall, the Council and the MPD. We need law enforcement to be a partner that understands our community because they are always welcome in our neighborhoods, especially as we have experienced a lot of challenges over the summer with an apparent and noticeable increase in drug activity, petty crime and prostitution. We want to ensure that we have a safe neighborhood and that our law enforcement partners understand our neighborhood, and are as welcomed as we welcome them. Petworth is a community with a long history made up of people from all walks of life. First and foremost, I believe it is important to ensure that

everyone's voice is legitimately heard and considered in our public spaces and community. The diversity of our neighborhood is what makes it so appealing for folks that have lived here for a long time, or for those who have recently decided to relocate here. If everyone isn't given a seat at the table with a voice, we will lose what all of us value so much. I believe everyone's diligence, willingness to listen and pitch-in and commitment to the community are what we need to make sure our public spaces are a place we want to enjoy. As a community, we have to know who to partner with in the District government to minimize crime and keep our public spaces clean and safe. If the community and all of its stakeholders take ownership of these shared spaces, things will continue to get better. I personally enjoy being outside picking up trash and maintaining the landscape around my home and the community. It gives me a unique opportunity to meet those in the community and I believe that model encourages others to contribute in the same way. If you know who is cleaning up and keeping you safe, you are more likely to contribute.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

I don't think that we should be at odds. As a homeowner who moved to this neighborhood after 16 years in the District, our ANC, my street and our neighborhood is what makes this the place where I intend to stay for 16 and 16 more because DC is my home. As someone who is invested in our community, I want to be sure that we stop thinking about it as those that have been here and those that have arrived, but all of us that are here. This is the neighborhood that we need to continue to build together. The challenge, with so much change in our city is that we sometimes fall into the trap of thinking of it as the old neighborhood and the new people that have come in. As someone that wants to represent my community, I am committed and I hope to bring the idea that all of us have a shared responsibility for protecting where we live for all us. Facilitating opportunities for longtime residents and new residents moving in to connect and dialogue is incredibly important. Everyone's voice matters. I would work to increase communication throughout the neighborhood by promoting the neighborhood list serves as well as being available to hear everyone's ideas and concerns regarding the neighborhood. I would work to build consensus between all residents through these conversations and increased connectivity.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

The city and the community need to be careful to find balance in the quest for increasing public and bike transit. Mass transit, ride sharing and other alternative means of transportation are a critical part of the future. Everyone's safety is the number one concern.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I would like to help focus efforts on improving walkability and making pedestrians and cyclists safer. In my neighborhood I believe there is a significant opportunity to improve the neighborhood experience on the 14th street corridor not just on infrastructure. A huge opportunity exists to support the retail hubs in our ANC by simply reducing litter, loitering and nuisance and violent crime. Also, a strategic focus, in partnership with D. on the traffic patterns through the upper 13th and 14th street corridors could go a long way to make everyone safer on our roads and sidewalks.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I believe preserving affordable housing in Petworth is especially important given its history. Affordable housing comes at a variety of levels; seniors, families and those just starting out in life all need a place to live and I believe Petworth has a great mix of that. Working with developers to make sure they are providing affordable housing that is integrated throughout the neighborhood is critical. The ANC should keep an open dialogue with developers so that they can have open conversations with one another.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

The apparent increase in drug dealing and prostitution has been a major concern for the neighborhood over the summer. I believe the ANC and our community must continue to work with the police, the city council and the Mayor's office to ensure the resources needed are available to eliminate this crime as much as possible. As these crimes are reduced, the overall experience in the neighborhood will be significantly improved. I believe it is important to give neighbors a safe and welcoming environment.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I would like to build on the momentum that our current ANC representative has built over the years to continue to make sure all of our neighbors have an opportunity to have their voices heard. I have the communication skills and tenacity needed to understand what people want and to facilitate getting things done for the neighborhood. My number one desire is to be a champion for everyone who lives in the SMD and I look forward to hearing from all of the stakeholders.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

It is completely understandable that a NIMBY response is exactly what each and everyone one of us would gravitate to. But the District is not a big city. It is a very small community and, for any of us that have lived in this city long enough to understand this, a “not in my backyard mentality” if used to its greatest effect should be defined by an understanding that “my backyard” is “your backyard” and is all of our city. We have to deal with challenges and make decisions together, whether it be from Capitol Hill, Shaw, Mount Pleasant, Georgetown, Tenleytown, Brightwood, or Columbia Heights and Petworth. The best thing we can do is to ensure that we are fully using our right to self-governance and Home Rule is to build consensus and to shape our city in the unique way that only DC can. We should all take pride in the District of Columbia.

Name: **Bennett Hilley**

ANC and Single Member District: **4C06**

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

ANC 4C unanimously voted to recommend the Spring Flats development to the Mayor and City Council for the redevelopment of the former Hebrew Home. The new development will bring much needed workforce and affordable senior housing to the Petworth neighborhood. In particular, the development team will be conducting informational meetings for teachers and staff at several of the nearby schools in Columbia Heights and Petworth to ensure they have the information to apply to live in these units. If elected, I commit to continuing to work with the development team and city agencies to ensure that the impact of the development is mitigated through the potential joint use of the Raymond Elementary parking lot for users of the Raymond Recreation Center. I will also commit to ensuring that the community continues to be actively involved in next steps, as construction on site begins to occur.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

I will defer to the commissioners running for office for the single member districts closer to these circles. I will note, however, that when it comes to transportation safety issues, I will take into consideration the recommendations made by the District Department of Transportation staff. I recognize that they have a level of professional expertise that I, someone who is not trained in transportation engineering or planning, does not have.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

I believe we as a community must work together to achieve these goals; while keeping public spaces safe, clean, and inviting may sound simple enough, it is much more complex issue. We can each take an active role in ensuring we keep 'eyes on the street' or pick up trash left on the sidewalks. In particular, as an ANC commissioner, I believe I can help add pressure to push the Council and the Mayor to address the risk of displacement in our neighborhood by increasing funding for affordable housing development and by looking at legislative policy solutions to helping ensure that seniors and long-term residents are able to remain in their homes.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

I believe this question is flawed in its understanding of our community, as I often hear opposition to change in the neighborhood from new residents as well. In general, we all find

change to be difficult to embrace, especially when it is not change that we necessarily elect to occur ourselves. Neighborhoods are living organisms--and are always evolving, especially in our rapidly growing city. I believe it's incredibly important to ensure that there be opportunities for dialogue regarding development and other changes that are occurring in the Petworth neighborhood. I believe that effective ANC leadership can ensure that there is an organized and robust community engagement process regarding these proposed changes--with the goal of reaching consensus and compromise. I have yet to work on an issue where there is a single, shared opinion regarding what is best for our community and neighborhood; what is wonderful about our neighborhood is that there is a recognition that what makes our community so wonderful is its diversity, including its diversity of opinions.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

As I have discussed with the District Department of Transportation, I would be supportive of a discussion regarding the loss of on-street parking if the initiative is essential to creating a network for bus transit or bike infrastructure. However, otherwise, I am opposed to the loss of on-street parking. I would also like to see the District's enforcement of violations for non-residents who are parking in residential zones strengthened, especially around the GA Avenue/Petworth metro station.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I am especially focused on ensuring pedestrian and bike safety near schools and along major commercial corridors.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I believe the ANC should advocate for additional affordable opportunities beyond what is required under the District's inclusionary housing law, including requesting developers requesting zoning exceptions and variances to make contributions to the Housing Production Trust Fund. I believe that Petworth/16th Street Heights should encourage the development of mixed-income and affordable housing in order to ensure that our community can continue to be a diverse neighborhood, where people are able to have a high quality of life regardless of income.



**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

Right now, it is the Board of Zoning Adjustment's continued non-adherence to the ANC's great weight. For many BZA cases now in front of the ANC, the BZA simply ignores the ANC's and community's recommendations; I hope to work with my fellow ANC Commissioners to have the Mayor and the Council to address this concern.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I am extremely committed to working with my neighbors to find consensus on complex issues. Additionally, I am committed to being responsive to my neighbors and helping them receive the assistance they need from DC agencies.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

My hope is that through dialogue and community engagement, the Petworth community can work together to consider highly local impacts of development and other matters while also prioritizing the needs of the District as a whole. Representing what is the Southwest edge of Ward 4 and Petworth, I recognize that a community is much larger than just the single member district I currently represent.

*Name: Krieg Rajaram*

*ANC and Single Member District: 4C07*

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

The Victory Homes Project will be seen as a welcome addition to the community after a long wait for something to happen to the Old Hebrew Home. The selected plan seems to encompass the spirit of what the community was looking for at that site despite falling short of the original total number of units and affordable units under the initial plan selected. I hope in future projects, that the wishes of the community are respected as the community seeks to increase the number of affordable housing units for families and seniors in Petworth.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

I would like to see an increase in safety awareness by all who use those intersections. Both Sherman and Grant Circle provide many uses for Petworth residents, whether it be as a motorist, cyclist, pedestrian passing through or someone visiting the park for the day. We must be mindful of each other and understand that the circles are a shared space. Everyone should show greater caution when proceeding through these intersections.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

To increase the cleanliness of our neighborhood and address the littering problem, we will need to enlist the efforts of all neighbors on a public clean-up campaign and establish neighborhood clean-up days. I would also reach out to the local high schools so we may have the aid of their students who need community service hours to graduate high school. I support initiatives that would be aimed at helping individuals deal with the rising cost of living in the city. I support affordable housing, providing exemptions to long term homeowners who are seeing increases in their property taxes in addition to Homestead Exemptions and any program that will help with rising utility cost for struggling residents. I will also stand as an advocate for those most in need. Displacement occurs when groups from higher and lower socio-economic classes are vying for the same space. It is often the case that those with the higher socio-economic standing will win. To address this we must speak out against inequities in hiring and payment practices of business and organizations which limits individuals ability to fight back against displacement.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

We first must build an environment of trust within the community and this must start with open communications about what changes are being proposed for our neighborhood. Too often have their been changes proposed or enacted in the community without largescale input from residents, or even worse, without their knowledge entirely. Create a clear channel of communication for all residents to access and find information is the key to bridging the gap and moving closer as a community.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I could not support any changes to street infrastructure that would remove parking and not adequately replace the parking spaces. Difficulty finding parking has been an issue that many residents have expressed in this area. I would work to find an alternative solution that is more accommodating to all constituents.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I have walked, rode bikes, and driven in this city for almost 30 years and I would like to say, I think the city has put great effort into increasing the number of bike lanes and having cars and cyclist share the road. Additionally, many efforts have been put into restricting drivers speed to make it safer for pedestrians to cross the street. I do not see a need for new bike lanes and sidewalks as cyclist and cars already share the road. I believe what we need is great enforcement of existing traffic laws on motorist, cyclist, and pedestrians if we want to see increase safety and a reduction in traffic accidents. While achieving zero accidents may not be possible because accidents do happen, greater enforcement on all parties using our streets can reduce accidents to a minimum.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

As an ANC, I will support developments that increase the affordable housing stock for our city. I believe each neighborhood in DC should carry as much affordable housing stock as they can bear. The city should also find and hold single-family properties to be exclusively sold to individuals using the HPAP program. This home purchase assistance program is income restrictive so it will ensure that neighborhoods have a mix of incomes living within the community and that all affordable housing is not just condo and apartment units.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

In my opinion, the major issues facing our community are housing affordability, bridging the divide between old and new, public safety and parking scarcity all of which I have touched on in responding to in previous questions.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I am a person driven to take action on behalf of ideas, places, and people I care passionately about. In my life, I have worked as a campaign organizer on a national and state election, served as an educator and mentor for teenagers as a City Year Corps Member and Close Up Foundation Program instructor, and a community organizer leading campaigns on student debt reform and health care expansion. I have spent most of my adult years in service of causes that I was passionate about and one of my greatest passions is to be of service to the community in which made me the man that I am today. In two years, once I have completed my term, we will find put worth a more unified community. A community that works together to ensure the safety of all its residents and helps individuals remain in the community that they have lived in for decades.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I believe individuals in a community have a right to determine what happens in their community even if it is at odds with greater city interest. City interest, may not always be in the best interest of a community. There will be times when, city interest will need to take precedent, but that will be assessed on a case by case basis and a broader analysis on if the intended outcome of any change is worth what a community will have to give up for that change to happen.

Name: *Kim Varzi*

ANC and Single Member District: *4C07*

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

I support plans to provide affordable housing in the old Hebrew Home. The building had been used for mental health services to persons of low income or without any health insurance. I believe it should continually be used to support persons in need. It is great that there will be 88 units for seniors. It would be better if more than 58 units were built for the lowest level of income (under 30% of the AMI essentially households with an income just over \$30,000). Perhaps if 66 were for 30% and under and 58 for 31-50% of the AMI. The process isn't over though as problems and issues are bound to come up during the development process. Community members have been active in the pre RFP acceptance of the development of the building, however, there are people who I am certain are not aware that the building and area are about to change and this could cause further disputes.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

My hopes are not to get hit by a car, my concern is that I may swear in front of my son when a car ignores the pedestrian crossing sign. I personally feel the changes that have been made in the past year have a positive impact in safely crossing the circles. However, there are, and always and will be cars and bicyclists who do not stop for pedestrians. Enforcement needs to increase. If drivers received a \$250 ticket once for failing to stop at a pedestrian crosswalk, I am certain they would become more aware of pedestrians crossing. Enforcement in the area would impact other parts of DC.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

I aim to start a monthly clean up. Clearly it would be a proposed idea that neighbors either take on or don't. The idea would be to have a specific day every month or every other month when neighbors clean up in front of their homes and surrounding areas. Ideally there will be block captains that can also be the ears and voice of the area and relay issues to me. As the ANC commissioner I would formally approach the city department to work on the issue at hand, but I would also want community members to be active participants in relaying our needs. I also want to encourage EL Haynes to have their students pick up litter in the direct neighborhood as part of their community projects. People have also pointed out areas with high dumping rates, which would be discussed with DPW. Safety concerns have been made already as I collected signatures. People want more lights on some blocks. Loitering on private property has been an issue in my immediate area, making some people feel unsafe. Neighbors

have approached those hanging around and have asked them to find somewhere else to gather that isn't private property. It is vital to communicate with people before taking it to another level. I often ask people loitering on my steps to find somewhere else to sit, and they leave. This isn't to say it is that simple. I know that as a result of increased safety concerns there is now a police officer assigned to Petworth library every day when highschool students are done for the day. Helping people at risk of displacement in the area starts by identifying them. This I believe would be the greatest challenge. Once identified I would work to ensure they have information on their rights or services that may help them through this period. I noticed an apartment building two blocks from me is being remodeled. Where the tenants went, I have no clue nor when the process started. Had I been ANC commissioner I would have made sure the tenants knew their rights and worked with the community to find a way for them to stay. In interpreting the question from a different perspective of people being at risk of displacement based on what others deem safety issues. There are definitely places in the neighborhood where people gather and sit on sidewalks or in the alley. Or even homes that see more traffic of people coming in and out of. Unless there have been incidents of crime I would find it unnecessary to involve the police or work to have the people removed from the area. Once again I would stress having conversations first and I could be a link if need be.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

Communication and socialization are great conflict resolution practices. I would hope community clean up days would provide an opportunity for new and old neighbors to get to know one another. Once relationships are built, it is easier to resolve issues amongst each other as well as be more empathetic to other people's needs/concerns. Often, when I ask long time residents how they feel about gentrification, most say they welcome change. It is people who buy a home for the home and not the community who may be a bit harder to get involved in community events and hence getting to know their neighbors. You can't force people to socialize with one another, but the more community events there are, the more likely people would get to know one another. If there were a dispute, I would hope I could be a link between the two parties. Dialogue would be the first course of action and if need be then a greater community meeting depending on the extent of the dispute. Sadly some people tend to vent on Listservs which can be harmful in fostering relationships within the community. Separately, it is important to retain or establish relationships between businesses and community members. As well as old and new businesses. 4C07 has been holding First Friday evenings on Upshur street with the participation of many businesses on the street. Also links between businesses and the community happen during special events whereby many of the small businesses support and sponsor these events.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

It would depend on where the street parking were located. Approaching it from a commercial area like Georgia Avenue versus a residential street like Kansas would require different tactics. And if on residential streets it would also depend if people had off street parking available or not. In all cases, I would encourage DDOT to complete a study of traffic in the area. I would be sure affected residents were aware of the proposed changes and set up a meeting. It is pertinent to involve the community in these issues even if we do not have a choice in the matter. Recently a resident expressed their anger to me over the loss of the chance to park in front of their home on Sherman Circle. I could empathize with her as I would hate to lose the opportunity to park in front of my home (especially since I do not have off street parking). However, the specific area has heavy bike traffic during rush hour. It is safer for commuter bikes to use the bike lanes to go around Sherman circle than to cut through the circle and it makes sense that the curve has a protected bike lane from vehicles turning.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

As a cyclist who rides down Georgia avenue, I think it would be great to add a bike lane going south from Upshur onward. It is especially hard for bicyclists on GA avenue where the sidewalk corners have been bumped out. I also know there is heavy bike traffic on Kansas avenue going south from Upshur to Spring road. Many bicyclists then turn onto 11th or head for 14th or 16th. But I know the morning can be rough for many on Kansas between Taylor and Upshur when the day care has drop off hours. There are a few other streets nearby that bike lanes would be nice, but maybe not necessary. Further research would be necessary to determine this as well as speaking to community members who live and park on those streets. The intersections of Kansas/Allison/8th NW, Kansas/Varnum/9th .N.W need to be changed. DDOT supposedly is going to undergo a study for Kansas/Allison/8th. Webster and 5th street also needs a stop sign. Cars speed after stopping on 5th and Allison during the morning commute and often times block the intersection of Webster making it hard for pedestrians/cyclists and cars to cross 5th St. during rush hour. There are several sidewalks that need to be repaired in the area. Allison St. near El Haynes needs to be repaved as well as nearby areas on 8th St. N.W. And Webster St. Varnum and 8th need corners to be adjusted for persons with disabilities. It is my understanding that you can request these services on 311 and the more likes you get by other 311 registered users, then the greater possibility of having a sidewalk repaired.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs ANC commissioners can advocate that the government invest in affordable housing. This is city

wide. The more local government officials and community members hold the government accountable to invest the more likely it will happen. It would be good if the government reformed permit laws requiring developers of large units to add ¼ of their units be dedicated to affordable housing. In our direct area there are some new establishments being built on Georgia Avenue, if by the same developer then they could be required to set aside one or two units for low income families. ANC commissioners review permits for new developments in the area. Hence, they could hold developers or the DC government accountable to being inclusive of affordable housing units. i.e. the end result of the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment. There is also a home at the corner of Allison St. and Georgia Avenue that has been vacant for about a year now. I had heard it is government owned but have not been able to find substantial evidence. It previously housed older men. I am not sure why they closed it down, or what the plans are for the property, but ANC or not, I will be sure to hold the government accountable for keeping that home available to persons in need of housing.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

At present in the direct area there isn't a great controversy that I am aware of, but there are issues. A "controversy" that has recently been resolved in the greater area had been LAMB charter school's request and plan to move onto the Kingsbury campus. There had been opposition to the move based on transportation and parking increases in the area. I support the final outcome to have LAMB there. I don't live too far from 14th and Decatur and understand congestion of cars is not fun (try passing down Webster street between 7th and 5th when Center City starts the day in the morning, it is dangerous, and something I would address as Commissioner). I think many residents in the area who opposed the inclusion don't realize how many of their neighbors attend LAMB and would probably bike or walk to school. One issue that could result into a greater problem is complaints against Safari DC. Noise levels and loitering well after hours has been obtrusive to those living nearby. As commissioner I would work with both parties to resolve the complaints. But it also brings up the problem of developers building quickly without sound proofing areas that may be affected by nearby commercial buildings.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I am an excellent communicator, active listener and have an open mind. I am extremely social and love to talk to everyone, and will talk to everyone. Communication is my goal for the next two years. I have not had the opportunity to attend ANC meetings because of bedtime schedules at our house, but I have wanted to know what has been going on; unfortunately we do not receive a bulletin nor have a community page. Thus, the first thing I would do is establish a blog and newsletter for 4C07. I aim to identify block captains who can help disseminate information for those who don't use the internet. They could also relay what changes or ideas neighbors want their commissioner to work on. I hope to have a cleaner area which sadly is prone to a great deal of litter. I have a goal of getting recycling bins in the



surrounding area on Georgia Avenue, Kansas, Taylor and Upshur streets for 4C07. I also want to involve everyone in the area. 4C07 includes home owners, condo owners, businesses, churches but also a lot of renters. I believe people who rent in the area are neglected and I want to be sure they feel a part of the community as much as anyone who has financially invested in it. Lastly, someone in the area suggested some ANC meetings take place on Saturdays. So I would encourage ANC commissioners to consider holding a meeting once every 3-6 months on a Saturday so people who cannot make weekday evening meetings would be given a chance to attend.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

It would be important to have evidence that the change is greater for the DC population and then to provide this information to the community through meetings. We must be mindful of our choice to live in an urban area with continued changes, challenges and needs. But we also need to work together to protect what makes DC a great city including the population that has grown up here and wants to remain. If the government is committed to invest in it's people, then I am sure the people will be committed to accept changes and also invest time and money in the city.

Name: **Timothy Jones**

ANC and Single Member District: **4C08**

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

Favored a ground lease. Wanted more for youth

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

safety concerns are addressed

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

being proactive

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

being welcoming and responsive

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

There is no cookie-cutter approach

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

Where needed if compatible with resident concerns

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

Ground leases versus sale in fee simple of DC owned property. None. IZ projects

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

Lack of a comprehensive vision

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

Institutional and historical of what made 4C a community in the past

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

It's hard to crystal ball on hypothetical issues

Name: *Tearsa Coates*

ANC and Single Member District: *4C09*

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

Ensuring that NPS maintains the mowing and adequate lighting is table stakes. Ensuring that police maintain their presence, especially at night, is table stakes. Ensuring that residents can continue to provide feedback on traffic patterns around the parks is table stakes. My greatest concern for the parks is that the public is able to use them to their fullest potential! I would love to see a diverse group of neighbors having picnics on the grass. It would be wonderful to leave bicycles and scooters at the parks for children to borrow when they visit. It would be great to arrange walking/jogging meet-ups, especially early morning and late in the evening, so residents can feel safe and accountable to each other while they exercise. It's my dream that the parks become even more integral to the sense of community in Petworth.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

I will continue to nurture the relationships I've established with MPD. I will continue to monitor the list serves and MPD communications to identify crime trends and pinpoint specific public safety issues. I will walk the neighborhood to personally assess areas for safety improvement and continue to survey residents to understand their primary safety concerns. The latest survey results indicate a need for greater MPD presence on-foot and via bicycles. Neighbors also request increased NSID oversight to stem violent crime. I'd like to ensure that our elders in the community are celebrated and looked after. I will invite Office of Aging and DCRA to house meetings to ensure that our seniors' have access to services they need to age in place. On the ANC commission I will be a voice for the poor and underserved and ensure that developers are held accountable for contributing to affordable housing when they ask for ANC approvals.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

It is important to me that new neighbors feel welcome and legacy neighbors feel included as our community continues to grow. It is not enough for us to build relationships with those neighbors with whom we assume we have the most in common. The safety, comfort, and enjoyment of our community depends on our willingness to stretch beyond our comfort zones and embrace the diversity of Petworth. I'd like to invite experts to facilitate discussion about the positive and detrimental impacts of gentrification on the neighborhood and what we can all do to create a more inclusive environment. I believe our neighborhood is overdue for more constructive dialogue about these issues. I would like to introduce a Random Acts of Neighborliness campaign to encourage residents to show support and care for neighbors, both

new and legacy. I will continue to knock on doors and leverage low tech ways of sharing community news, events, and opportunities with neighbors who do not participate in digital forums. I will personally encourage neighbors who feel disconnected and disengaged to attend ANC meetings and to add their own unique flavor to community events.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I would ask residents what they prefer and represent their desires on the ANC. I would utilize Nextdoor, ANC meeting agendas, list serves, online surveys, and in-person visits to gather their feedback.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

I would more strongly support developers that build units with ample space to house families rather than individuals. I would also enforce legislation requiring large developments to set aside affordable dwelling units. I am intrigued by our ANC's current practice of asking developers to financially contribute to a fund that supports affordable housing.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

According to results from the neighborhood survey, there is a resounding sentiment from legacy neighbors that we preserve the history, character, and diversity of Petworth as the community develops. I fully support all efforts to ensure that legacy residents feel fully included and respected as we shape the future of Petworth.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I am a problem solver and a consensus builder. I enjoy prioritizing the issues, collaborating to generate creative proposals, evangelizing the vision, and bringing others along as we execute the solution. In two years, as commissioner of 4C09, I will have ensured that our neighborhood is known for constructive dialogue on inclusion, access to affordable housing, acute attention to senior citizens, and drastically reduced violent crime.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I believe that all voices are valuable and that dissenting opinions, especially minority interests, enhance idea generation and the quality of proposed solutions. Diversity of opinion is a positive. As a consensus builder, I have experience identifying common interests despite competing priorities. Ultimately, it is important to remember that our elected officials, including the Mayor and City Council, represent the desires of all citizens when they establish city-wide priorities. In the spirit of democracy, I will respect these guidelines while serving as a conduit for change based on the unique perspectives I hear from my constituents.

Name: **Steven Feingold**

ANC and Single Member District: **4C09**

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

Overall I am pleased with the final plan for the Old Hebrew Home. It will provide a good mix of senior, affordable, and market rate housing, and will add needed homes close to existing neighborhood amenities. I thought the Our-RFP process allowed for good input from the public and the ANCs. I personally would have preferred a higher percentage of market rate housing, but believe the overall number of units is compatible with a site so close to the Metro and bus lines along Georgia, New Hampshire and 14th St.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

The recent changes made to both Circles have been great. Narrowing the driving and turning lanes has made drivers more attentive, and I feel safer crossing the Circles on foot. We need to ensure that DDOT makes these changes permanent by adding concrete pedestrian islands or planters and not leaving safety only to the temporary bollards and paint (which are already showing wear after less than a year). I liked DDOT's process of trying out the one-lane configuration to get real-world data on the results of traffic changes and meeting with the community before and after the tests to get neighborhood input.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

One of the ANC's most important roles is to make sure city agencies are responsive when citizens report unsafe or unclean conditions. Making sure residents know to use 311 and that the City is properly responding to those issues is key to the proper upkeep of the District. Unfortunately there are too many sidewalk repairs and other requests that go unfixed even after multiple 311 reports. As a commissioner, I will work diligently to make sure the City is responding to the problems reported by residents. The best example I can think of for how commissioners can help residents at risk of displacement comes from neighboring ANC 4D. Commissioners there were able to elevate problems and inconsistencies in DC Water's billing practices during the rollout of new water meters. Some residents were receiving incorrect bills and not getting the proper amount of attention from DC Water. While merely an inconvenience for many, financial problems like these can be the final push that forces at-risk residents out of the neighborhood.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

Petworth is home to a lot of great local business and events that help to foster a strong sense of community. It is through these informal interactions that a strong neighborhood is built. For specific changes that are creating conflict between neighbors, I believe the role of the ANC is to help foster constructive dialogue so that residents can, at the least, understand each other's views. As a commissioner, I would also look to examples from neighboring ANCs to see whether and how they were able to handle similar differences of viewpoints from their residents.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

Over the past few years, the District has seen an increase in alternatives to get around, including bikeshare, ridesharing and most recently, electric scooters. Not everyone can use these options to get around, but those who do are reducing demand for parking spaces and ultimately making existing parking more available for those who need or want to drive. I consider improvements that make it easier to bike or take the bus to be just as important as making driving easier. The recent changes to Sherman Circle caused the loss of a few on-street parking spaces, but like most of the neighborhood, the affected homes have parking available off of the alley. In this case, improving bike and bus infrastructure comes ahead of the convenience of street parking over alley parking.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

The Rock Creek East Livability study calls for a number of pedestrian and bike improvements, which I generally agree with. The most important to me are improvements for crossing New Hampshire Ave. These include curb extensions like those on Georgia Ave and putting in a traffic light at Quincy and NH. The City also needs to make it clear that walking is considered important. There are far too many uneven sidewalks that get reported to 311 but not acted on. There are also a lot of retaining walls and shrubs partially blocking sidewalks. The bus stop closest to my house has a utility pole right in the middle of the sidewalk! And these problems are especially concerning for people trying to move about the neighborhood in wheelchairs, with strollers, or with carts to buy groceries or do laundry. If the city is serious about inclusion and safety, it needs to tackle these easy issues. I think the single biggest thing the City needs to do for Vision Zero is to have actual enforcement of speeding and reckless driving. A few cameras that commuters quickly memorize the locations of is not a sufficient substitute.



**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

Affordability is a major problem for our neighborhood, but, the ANC, unfortunately, can't do much. Not only are some long time residents being displaced, but ever-rising housing prices are burdening middle-income and higher earners as well, reducing the amount of disposable income that could be going to our local businesses and community events. The ANC should continue to support large buildings along Georgia Ave and near the Metro. Slight increases in density in more residential areas can be accomplished with condo conversions and accessory dwellings. But developers must be responsive, perform only permitted work, and not create nuisance conditions for neighbors during construction. Poor behavior from developers is not just bad on its face, but can contribute to anti-development sentiments across the board. I also think that increased revenue from additional housing has to go to improving our public spaces so that everyone can enjoy quality of life improvements as a result of development.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

At the request of Varnum Street residents, DDOT recently changed traffic patterns for vehicles coming off Rock Creek Church Rd. At the community meetings I attended, there was a lot of anger from some residents at the potential for increased traffic, especially on Webster Street. I agreed with the recommendations from DDOT, because I agreed that the changes would improve traffic flow, especially for inbound New Hampshire Ave traffic by better utilizing the signalized intersection with Webster. DDOT has not yet published updated traffic counts, but once those data are released, I expect and hope that DDOT will be soliciting feedback from residents on how the changes have played out.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I have been involved in the community for several years, by attending and contributing to ANC and DDOT meetings. I worked with Amy Hemingway from ANC 4D and the National Park Service to bring benches back to Sherman Circle and helped lead a Casey Trees planting in Grant and Sherman Circles that added 30 trees to these signature Petworth parks. I've led trash cleanups at Grant Circle and organized a volunteer effort to repaint the benches there. I'm a contributor to the Petworth News blog and regularly attend community events like Petworth Jazz. I hope in 2 years that ANC 4C is still a vibrant, diverse place to live for long-time residents, newcomers, families, and individuals.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

Community leaders need to always be looking at the bigger picture, but are ultimately responsible to their local constituents. The construction of new short term housing for homeless residents at 5th and Kennedy is a great example. It is widely agreed that having a single, central location for homeless housing at DC General was not in the City or its homeless residents' interest. But choosing sites for the smaller buildings was inevitably going to lead to some local pushback. Including additional public amenities at the shelter sites is the best way to address those concerns. In the case of the Ward 4 shelter site, Kennedy Street was already in the process of getting a lot of infrastructure upgrades, facade improvements and other investment by the City that will help balance out the potential impacts of the new shelter on the lives of the existing residents. As a commissioner, I would seek to broker these types of compromises as the best way to resolve conflicts when the City needs Petworth to act on behalf of the greater good.

Name: *Jonah Goodman*

ANC and Single Member District: *4C10*

**What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?**

I supported ANC 4C's resolution selecting Victory Housing and Brinshore Development for the redevelopment of the Hebrew Home. The project was ideal from my viewpoint on several issues. The proposal included 150 affordable units out of the 187 being built, 88 of those dedicated to senior housing. This property has sat vacant for years while our community struggles with density concerns and market forces that are pushing senior residents out of our community. Further this project is 1,000 feet from the Petworth Metro station. The conditions are optimal for both addressing affordable housing needs in our community and for adding density. The District, and in particular DMPED, has some process improvement issues they need to address in terms of community outreach and updates. DMPED also needs to be more clear with developers on similar future projects regarding subsidies to make proposals easier for communities to compare. Also this project was hampered by the PUD litigation happening and could have used some legislative solutions to allow stronger community benefits. These issues made it harder for the District to explain the role for the community and the ANC to play despite this being an Our RFP project.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

My SMD borders on Grant Circle and it is my neighborhood's largest public space. I support the traffic calming changes made to the approach to the circle as well as the bike lanes. I would strongly support protected bike lanes here if there were not significant ADA compliance concerns with WMATA bus stops also on the circle. I hope that more residents utilize Grant Circle, and Sherman Circle, as public green space. The more we as a community believe this is a common shared space the more I believe we will support slowing vehicular traffic to allow safe pedestrian access. I think the next step would be for DDOT to test bulb outs at each cross walk to raise the visibility of pedestrian traffic. Since we already see some of the flexipost barriers knocked over by cars it would be great to test more permanent structures. New York, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, and Oakland are testing pre-fab bulb outs and bus boarding islands. When we install bulb outs on Upshur, after repaving, DDOT should include Grant Circle.

**How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?**

Housing is a common denominator in all of these issues. We have pockets of vacant property that should be returned to viable housing and empty mixed use retail that should be supporting our neighborhoods. Prolonged multi-year vacancies deprive us of new housing that can lessen

the pressure on neighbors to sell and leave our community. It also denies us local retail that creates jobs and services beneficial to our neighbors. We often look at development projects as negative impacts that change our neighborhood, but we have the potential to try to shape responsible development here that maximizes affordable, family-sized, and senior housing to make sure we don't price out those who want to contribute to our community. In particular I would like to see ANC 4C adopt some policies and publicize them for developers on what we would like to see in our community. I think projects that address vacant properties, go beyond legal minimums for affordable housing, provide accessible housing, and senior housing should be generally encouraged by ANC 4C. Additionally developments with mixed use retail that recruits healthcare and childcare related businesses, locally owned businesses, and workforce development offices should encouraged. ANC 4C could publicly adopt these recommendations and provide guidance to developers about what we want to see built and where in our community. The current PUD pathway is not a viable route anymore for communities to shape development so we should be actively looking for new options to create a more inviting neighborhood.

**How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?**

The 4C10 community is wonderfully close. The neighborhood hosts numerous block parties, takes care of each other, and supports our local business community. We have also seen more row home development in this district than any others in all of 4C. The changes put pressure on our blocks but in most cases residents have worked closely together to advocate for each other. I think being able to welcome each other into our houses for community meetings will continue to keep us aware of our neighbor's needs. As a Commissioner I want to continue to bring developers to meetings to hear residents' needs and concerns and mediate those discussions when needed. As long as we continue to support each other and understand how one block supports another we will be a strong, diverse, and supportive community.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

DDOT is looking to install a Capital Bikeshare in my SMD. In order to do so they need to remove some on-street parking for the station since our sidewalks are not wide enough. The two parking spaces would yield space for 19 bicycles. If we are being realistic with our situation in 4C we probably have more cars now than street parking on the average block. If we don't start having hard conversations about the value of street parking it will only be harder and more divisive as density increases. I also recognize that if we want to keep senior residents in the community who depend on their vehicle for mobility we need to find ways to support parking needs. For the Capital Bikeshare there was an opportunity to add street parking nearby in addition to the bike station. We can't do this everywhere but we should be looking for options so its not an either/or situation when we want to add multi-modal infrastructure.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

This past term I worked with DDOT on a few projects, that not yet implemented, are looking at safety issues in my SMD: - Illinois Avenue between Upshur and Grant Circle is being changed to one-way northbound to address one of the more dangerous intersections for pedestrians - DDOT is going to be repaving Upshur and once completed will allow for more improvements - Once paved DDOT will install bulb-outs on Upshur at the 60 bus stops - DDOT has begun traffic calming projects on Rock Creek Church Road at Harewood and Webster to address one of the more dangerous roadways in my SMD Looking ahead most of my focus is on the Rock Creek Church Road (RCC) segment in my SMD: - Installing crosswalks at bus stops on RCC and/or working with WMATA to move stops to crosswalks for pedestrian safety - Determining solutions to finish the dedicated bike lane on RCC and options for lane protection at the road bends - Working with Safe Routes to School on RCC to make the Upshur and RCC intersection safer for both families accessing the Soldiers Home campus as well as our veteran neighbors

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

ANC 4C has had a couple of options to support affordable housing with both the Hebrew Home development, Petworth Place TOPA process, Hope Coop among others. I have supported all affordable housing requests that have come to 4C during my time as a Commissioner. I think though we have a bigger opportunity to add affordable housing in our more common smaller-scale development, such as the frequent single family rowhome to three unit condo conversions we see. I am working on a proposal to ask ANC 4C to announce and publish preliminary support for common special exception and variance requests. In return, applicants would need to agree to add affordable housing beyond the inclusionary zoning requirements, returning vacant and blighted properties to useful housing, providing workforce housing, or financial contribution to Housing Production Trust Fund. There will need to be nuance to this since each of those needs have different financial costs. The hope is that by signaling to developers where we want them to invest and in return providing support they may be inclined to take on these projects. The draft of the policy can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/ANC4Cdevelopment>

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

We already talked about density and development but it is one of the most common concerns I hear. 4C10 has seen a higher percentage of BZA special exceptions for larger build requests than the other nine 4C districts. My goal is to not react to these as they come up but address density across the SMD beforehand. The challenge neighbors typically bring up is how much is changing without input from current residents. I do think that we should be open to any residents who want to call our neighborhood home and contribute to our community. I hope 4C

will adopt my development plan, or something similar, that allows us as a community to prioritize what we want to see. This would also allow the community to discuss family-sized housing, affordable housing, and senior housing, all common requests I hear from neighbors.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I don't think I am the best person to represent my SMD, but I am certainly willing to put in the work. My goal for my time on ANC 4C has been to help demystify both what the ANC does as well as help residents understand how our District works for them. My goals are: - Continue to increase transparency around how the ANC functions and thinks about decisions - Pass development guidelines, as mentioned in previous questions, to have a vision for where we want density and what that should look like - Advocate at the District agency level for process fixes that could increase resident participation (e.g. having BZA move to timed hearings to make it easier for a wider range of residents to testify at hearings) - Advocate for more open data and data transparency to help our community (e.g. PaveDC is visually interesting but provides no timeline data for projects to be useful for residents)

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

Currently a handful of Commissioners in 4C, myself included, are working on policies that will cover our full Commission area. We are looking at consistent settlement agreements and sidewalk seating treatment for business across 4C. We are also looking at options to apply development goals across the area. We currently tend to decide cases differently depending on whose SMD they are in and that is not an effective way to manage cases fairly. We need to look at housing consistently so that one side of a street in 4C10 is treated the same the other side of the street in 4C08. Neighbors on the same block don't see arbitrary ANC boundaries and want to be treated fairly and equally.

Name: *Renee Bowser*

ANC and Single Member District: *4D02*

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

Foremost, I think sustained public safety will come about when there is real public justice and real on the ground opportunity for all DC residents. I support the NEAR Act, its public health approach to violence prevention, and its initiatives to identify individuals who are at risk of participating in violence or being a violence victims and attempt to remedy factors that create these risks. Actions to ameliorate the risks should include real job training that produces jobs that can support living in DC and programs which broaden individuals' perspectives past the poverty in which they are trapped and help them resolve conflicts in a more positive way. I agree with engaging mental and behavioral experts in the MPD because individuals who suffer great disparities, including those with incarcerated parents, are at greater risk of violence. As a commissioner, I want to know how the violence interrupters for Ward 4 have been selected and specifically what plans and tools they will use to uplift the conditions of individuals who have suffered and committed violence in the community. I want to know what types of conduct prompt police to stop and frisk individuals in DC and what factors police use as the basis for the stops.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the developments along Kennedy Street NW? How would you encourage more shops in the area?**

I hope that DC government agencies listen to the concerns of the businesses that actually exist on Kennedy Street as they struggle to survive. A resident of my SMD who owns a Kennedy Street business complained of not being directly consulted and notified by DDOT and DC Water of their construction plans and street disruptions. I believe that residents of Ward 4, particularly those who live close to Kennedy Street should be surveyed as to what businesses would be most helpful to them. Such a survey should be broader than an online survey which reaches a limited demographic.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

I think Grant Circle and Sherman Circle are generally safe. Another sign needs to be placed on the southbound exit onto New Hampshire Avenue leaving Grant Circle because some drivers are making carving out a 2nd lane next to the Church. If there are still problems, DDOT can install flashing lights when pedestrians are in the cross-walks.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

Prioritizing bus transit because bus transit can be used by riders with children, disabled riders, riders with large items, and riders, including bikers, in inclement weather. Currently, it is unnecessary to remove parking lanes on the larger streets in my SMD—Kansas Ave., New Hampshire Ave., and Kennedy St.—in order to accommodate bus travel. These streets are large enough for parking lanes, bicycle lanes, and bus travel in either direction. Complete removal of parking during rush hour or during week days on streets for dedicated bus lanes may be reasonable if such action would substantially speed bus travel. Removing on-street parking from one side of smaller streets should be considered if bus transit added to those streets can be made reliable at more hours of the day and night and in all weather conditions. Removing on-street parking for bicycle lanes requires a more stringent balancing test because bicycles do not transport as many people for as many purposes in as many weather conditions. I would weigh the environmental benefits of biking, the number of residents served by biking, and the purposes biking can serve against the benefits of vehicle use, the numbers of residents who can be served by vehicles, and where residents will store their vehicles if there is no on-street parking or parking on only one-side of the street. I would also examine the impact on customers of small businesses along Kennedy Street who do not live near the area.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I would like to see DDOT repair broken and uneven sidewalks. This would make our blocks safer for pedestrians, particularly seniors, wheelchair bound and other disabled pedestrians, strollers, and bicyclists. I want to make sure all intersections are clearly marked with lighting over the intersections so that drivers can see the markings at night. I want to see 4-way stop signs at dangerous intersections where there have been numerous accidents, including 1st and Ingraham Sts., NW, 2nd and Gallatin Sts., NW, and 4th and Kennedy Sts., NW. I want to see clear, helpful signage at 5-way intersections such as the 4th/Hamilton/Kansas Ave. intersection.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

My ANC should address housing affordability by recognizing the many forms of gentrification that have contributed to unaffordable housing and displacement, including the City's destruction of public housing units without one-for-one replacement, the displacement of low income residents by refusing to enforce housing codes in rent-controlled buildings, the giveaway of District-owned land with minimal affordable housing requirements, and commercial bank discrimination against Black and Latino residents seeking mortgages. My ANC should oppose the Mayor's proposed Comp Plan amendments because they remove current requirements that the Zoning Commission assess the adverse impacts of large developments,



including the displacement of neighborhood residents. In addition, the proposed Comp Plan amendments fail to define affordable housing or link affordable housing to density and therefore would allow the Zoning Commission to approve development that largely ignores the affordable housing crisis. My ANC can contribute to affordable housing by pressuring Council and agencies to enforce housing codes, pass legislation to place additional buildings under rent control, oppose displacement of low income families at Brookland Manor, Barry Farms, and oppose high end condos on the Crummell School site when Ivy City community needs a recreation and community center, library, and affordable housing.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

In my SMD, several residents with children have complained that they are unable to send their children to charter schools in our neighborhood even though their taxes support these schools. I believe that there should be certain slots set aside for neighborhood residents. In addition, several residents complain about the loss of recreation space in our SMD. I think the public school playgrounds should be reopened to the public during non-school hours and weekends due to the paucity of recreation space in our community. I also believe that the District government should approach the National Park Service about use of NPS land bordering Missouri Avenue between 3rd and 4th Sts., NW for recreation purposes.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I believe I can ably represent my SMD by using my expertise in community activism, lawyering, labor, and trade unionism to help elevate the conditions of working class people and advance community more broadly so that all of DC's people, particularly those confronted with racial, ethnic, and other types of oppression, may experience real opportunity and achievement.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I think an example of certain residents calling for a certain policy without fully considering the consequences of such a policy is the call by certain residents for loitering and/or stop and frisk laws. These laws have been used to target marginalized groups of all stripes, have violated individual rights, and have failed to make residents safer where they have been employed.

Name: **Aaron Polkey**

ANC and Single Member District: **4D03**

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

I support the NEAR Act. As a commissioner, I will advocate for creating space for innovative solutions to have a chance to succeed. While it is challenging to ask that crime victims and communities be patient while criminal activity is in progress, the roots of crime are generational issues for which there are no quick fixes. While many circumstances require immediate action, we must balance short-term solutions with the long-term commitments necessary to truly move away from incarceration models.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the developments along Kennedy Street NW? How would you encourage more shops in the area?**

I will encourage ANC 4D to wrap its arms around the new family shelter in a hospitable, welcoming, and charitable manner so that our temporary neighbors will feel welcome in our community. If we create more opportunities for community-building, special events, festivals, and other draws to Kennedy Street, we could potentially create the groundswell that has made Upshur Street such a success.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

Traffic needs to be calmed on 5th Street and Kansas Avenue, in both cases between Gallatin and Decatur. If the light is green at 5th and Kansas, both of these strips becomes speedways encouraging cars to fly into both Grant and Sherman Circles.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

Especially in the case of bus transit, I am inclined to prioritize on-street parking removal for the greater good. However, these matters are highly subjective. Much depends on the number of spaces, as well as whether affected neighbors have been properly informed, consulted, and engaged.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I'm delighted a Capital Bikeshare rack is coming to Sherman Circle. If the triangle at Kansas and Hamilton near Gethsemane Baptist ever becomes a new DC Water-supported park, one should go there too.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

DC should invest in ways to better educate long-term residents as to real strategies to keep their properties if they wish, manage increased taxes (and relief for fixed income, etc.), and realize the true value of their asset in the event that they opt to move on. DC should also invest in truly public and subsidized housing, which can still be achieved in the context of mixed-income and more dense communities if there is a true will on the part of the local government.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

ANCs need to look at reassessment, as I am hearing chatter of dramatically inconsistent valuations of houses that should otherwise be similarly valued. A disclosure of assessment history would reveal if this problem is real.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

I intend to make myself available and responsive to constituents, and offer a fresh and hard-working voice for my neighbors.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

Advocates of broader city-wide interests have the burden of engaging and obtaining buy-in from community members who may be justifiably inclined to support their own narrow interests. It is a privilege to be able to sacrifice some of your own interests for the greater good, which therefore implicates a duty to broken solutions that most, if not all, can believe and trust functions in the greater good for all.

Name: *Jonathan Nobil*

ANC and Single Member District: *4D06*

**What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?**

In the 3+ years that I have lived in Petworth, I have observed significant improvements in crime and public safety overall. That said, there is still work to be done, and interfacing with MPD, other community leaders and the community as a whole to keep our streets safe will be my top priority. If people don't feel safe in their own homes and neighborhoods, everything else falls apart. The NEAR Act appears to be sensible legislation and I will do my part to work with all stakeholders to support it in the context of improved public safety.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the developments along Kennedy Street NW? How would you encourage more shops in the area?**

I presume the question refers to commercial developments? Kennedy Street presents great opportunity as a vibrant commercial corridor in that area. I think it is critical to ensure that the neighborhood and its residents feel safe, particularly after dark, and that will draw more interest in and patrons of local establishments. Personally, I'm a big fan of Tony's Place for breakfast! I look forward to learning more about the zoning policies and other regulatory factors that affect the development of Kennedy Street East of Georgia Avenue.

**What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?**

Grant Circle falls outside of ANC4D. With respect to Sherman Circle, I believe it is important to balance the needs of all stakeholders, and carefully evaluate any changes to traffic patterns, bike lanes, pedestrian crossing elements, etc. On the one hand, traffic circles were initially conceived as community gathering places, and Sherman Circle is indeed a valued recreational space. We should recognize that and protect it as a centerpiece of the neighborhood. On the other hand, we should bear in mind that traffic circles, by their nature, inherently slow down otherwise potentially dangerous traffic. I will always keep an open mind, and will carefully evaluate future DDOT traffic studies and recommendations, but my general perspective is that Sherman Circle already has a number of bright safety features, pedestrian signs, and clearly marked bicycle lanes. At some point, more signs, lights, etc. detract from the greenery and serenity we are trying to preserve, and additional restrictions on traffic would drive it to other areas of the neighborhood where reckless drivers could cause even more harm.

**If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.**

I think in general we have a good balance of on-street parking vs. bus/bike infrastructure in 4D. If the issue of improving bus/bike infrastructure did come up, I believe there are certain north-south and east-west routes that could be modified without creating an on-street parking "crisis". That said, I believe the impact of any proposed change would have to be subjected to rigorous analysis. In general the majority of the homes here do have (or have space for) off-street parking, and there seems to be a sufficient supply of on-street parking spaces.

**Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?**

I believe we currently have very strong bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in 4D, but would keep an open mind with respect to any specific new proposals.

**What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?**

This is obviously a significant citywide concern, and I will not pretend to be an expert on an issue that has been extensively studied and debated. Our neighborhood has a deep and rich history, and what I would say with regard to 4D specifically is that I believe any new multifamily / condominium developments should be carefully scrutinized with respect to compliance with the affordability requirements currently required of developers (i.e., are they setting units aside for affordable housing?), and overall impact on the infrastructure of the neighborhood. My understanding is that the District of Columbia's Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) Program currently requires 8 – 10% of residential floor area to be set aside for affordable rental or for-sale units. Gentrification is not a black and white issue, but it is an important discussion in the context of income inequality. The most prominent visual signifiers of change — new residential buildings, new restaurants, etc. — are popping up all over Petworth, and sometimes in ways that do not respect the long term history of Petworth, it's residents, or the culture of DC.

**What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?**

1. DC Water – I would refer the reader to my personal experience with DC Water here: <https://www.petworthnews.org/blog/dc-water-high-bills>; and here: <https://www.petworthnews.org/blog/dewater-bills-meters>. I think as a community, we need more oversight of DC Water as an essential public utility that currently has no consumer supervisor right now. 2. Lead and water – we should educate residents about the excellent city programs that are in place to support residents who are concerned about citywide lead pipes, and also educate about the rainwater programs that are also available.

**Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?**

As a 3+ year resident of Petworth and a lifelong resident of DC, I have observed the dramatic changes our city has undergone in the last 30+ years. It's become a safer, more connected, more efficient and also much more expensive place to live. I think a community representative should ruthlessly tackle key issues like crime and safety, but should also have a strong respect for the history of the neighborhood, its residents and the District of Columbia as a whole. Unfortunately, too often these days we hear "tales of two cities", whether that refers to states or cities that are divided over politics, race or economic standing. It doesn't have to be that way. I have had the great pleasure to get to know my neighbors who are from all walks of life over the last several years, and I believe we can all come together to continue to build a great neighborhood that fights for the key issues - eliminating crime, looking out and advocating for those who might not be able to do so themselves - while still retaining a great sense of the culture and history that has always made DC such a special place.

**Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.**

I have observed situations, not necessarily locally but via email listservs, where certain residents of a particular block fought for and won a conversion of their street to one-way traffic, or installed a new stop sign, or something that was directly related to their own narrow interests. The reality is, we all share this neighborhood and our city. Would I feel safer and more comfortable walking my dog across Sherman Circle if I had a button I could push that set off flashing lights and send up roadblocks? Sure, I guess. But it's not just about ourselves. Changing a street to one-way might seem nice for the residents of that block who are concerned by speeding traffic, but it pushes that speeding traffic to other areas of the neighborhood, and, I would suggest, allows those now driving on that one-way to speed even more. When you meet a car on a two-way street in Petworth, you try to pull aside to give the other car room to get through. When a pedestrian wants to cross a crosswalk, sometimes the cars stop and give right of way, and sometimes they are speeding and they don't. That's the reality of daily life. My approach would be to advise such community members that we all live here, we all share this space, and that narrow positions that might seem important to them probably have unintended consequences that meaningfully impact their neighbors. The best outcomes for each individual community usually involve a cohesive and diverse effort, so that above all else, we respect each other in times of disagreement, and work with one another as peers to achieve the best ultimate results for Petworth residents.