

Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
Van Ness • North Cleveland Park • Wakefield • Forest Hills

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3F03 – Mary Beth Ray
3F04 – Sally Gresham
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3F06 – Malachy Nugent, Chair
3F07 – Patrick Jakopcsek, Vice Chair



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**RESOLUTION TO REPAIR AND IMPROVE THE ALBEMARLE AND
32ND STREETS INTERSECTION AND ACCESS TO ROCK CREEK PARK**

December 20, 2016

Whereas the intersection of Albemarle and 32nd Streets (“the intersection”) is heavily used by the community; and

Whereas this intersection is an important element of the “Safe Routes to School” program for the Franklin Montessori School and Murch, Hearst, Burke, Deal, and Wilson; and

Whereas near the intersection of Albemarle and 32nd Streets, NW there is a trailhead to the Soapstone Valley Trail; and

Whereas the current conditions at this intersection are a danger to public safety:

- the sidewalk is collapsing and undermined and has been closed off for 9 months, with no safe way to pass;
 - pedestrians, including children and the elderly, are forced to walk into busy Albemarle Street to avoid the closed sidewalk;
 - the lack of stormwater management has eroded the soil underlying the sidewalk;
 - stormwater from Brandywine Street, causes erosion and creates hazardous conditions for pedestrians and motorists during heavy rains;
 - there are no stop signs on Albemarle Street between 29th Street and Connecticut Avenue;
 - the lack of a left turn signal for west bound Albemarle traffic turning south on Connecticut Ave., combined with heavy pedestrian usage, creates long backups particularly during the morning rush and pedestrians are often forced to weave through idling cars to cross the street;
 - weeds and invasive species are overtaking trees and other native plants;
 - the steep slope down to Soapstone Creek and the outfall basin is filled with litter which cannot be safely reached for cleanup;
 - the outfall water frequently emits a powerful and repugnant odor, has an unnatural color and occasionally bubbles and foams;
 - the south side of the Albemarle sidewalk abruptly ends at the entrance to Soapstone Valley Trail;
 - despite its proximity to Rock Creek Park and its 20 miles of bike trails, bicyclists have no safe or reasonable way to access Rock Creek Park because there is no bike lane on Albemarle Street;
- and

Whereas Van Ness Main Street supports this effort to improve the conditions at the intersection, and enhance the ability to access Soapstone Valley Park trails and Rock Creek Park, which underscores its mission of creating a beautiful, walkable, sustainable and thriving Van Ness corridor; and

Whereas ANC 3F wants to take this opportunity not only to address traffic and pedestrian problems but also to protect a fragile ecosystem, and to call attention to the area as a case study for how nature can coexist with city life; and

Whereas DOEE and DC Water have undertaken a study of the water quality in the outfall basin at the Albemarle/32nd Street intersection, and an ongoing assessment and maintenance plan, to ensure that it is free of pollution; and

Whereas Commissioners Gresham and Ray have worked for four years with numerous agencies and officials including DDOT, DC Water, DOEE, DPW, National Park Service, Mayors Gray and Bowser and Councilmember Mary Cheh and others to effect a holistic solution but changes have been very limited and piecemeal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. DDOT shall repair and re-open the sidewalk immediately;
2. DDOT and DC Water shall address stormwater runoff from Brandywine Street by adding new, properly engineered catch basins to control the runoff flowing down 32nd Street from Brandywine Street so that the erosion can be eliminated and the new sidewalk will not degrade;
3. DDOT shall add stop signs to create a 3-way stop at the intersection of Albemarle and 32nd Street ;
4. DDOT shall add marked cross walks and ADA compliant ramps at places and angles determined appropriate by DDOT at both Albemarle and 32nd Street and Brandywine and 32nd Street intersections;
5. DPW shall regularly mow, prune, weed, clean litter and otherwise maintain this area;
6. DDOT shall undertake a traffic study, analyzing the appropriateness of a left turn signal from Albemarle to Connecticut Ave., and modifications to the parking allowed near the intersection to address traffic congestion which is hazardous for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists during morning rush;
7. DDOT shall build a continuous sidewalk on the south side of Albemarle from Connecticut Ave to the eastern end of Albemarle Street;
8. DDOT shall install a bike path down one side of Albemarle Street from Connecticut Avenue to Broad Branch Road and at the eastern end of Albemarle Street the DDOT right of way be used for a combination staircase/bike ramp path leading to the planned Broad Branch Roadway renovation;
9. DDOT shall undertake a streetlight study, analyzing the appropriateness of safer illumination conditions for pedestrians, bicyclists and motor vehicle drivers on Albemarle Street from Connecticut Ave to the future pathway connection into the planned Broad Branch Roadway renovation; and
10. ANC 3F requests that DDOT study this intersection, and design and build a platform overlooking Soapstone Valley Park to allow and encourage the community to enjoy its beauty, and to allow visits by school groups to study the nature and habitat;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Commissioners Malachy Nugent and Pat Jakopchek and former Commissioners Mary Beth Ray and Sally Gresham are authorized to speak on behalf of ANC 3F regarding this matter.

ANC 3F approved this resolution at its meeting on December 20, 2016, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 1 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Malachy Nugent", is written over a horizontal line.

Malachy Nugent, Chair