

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

3F01 – Adam Tope, Chair
3F02 – Karen L. Perry, Vice Chair
3F03 – Mary Beth Ray
3F04 – Sally Gresham
3F05 – Manolis R. Priniotakis
3F06 – Malachy Nugent, Secretary
3F07 – Bob Summersgill, Treasurer



Box 244
4401-A Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008-2322
www.anc3f.us
commissioners@anc3f.us
Phone: 202-670-7ANC

Resolution on the DCPS School Boundaries Review Process

WHEREAS, the District embarked in 2013 on a process, run by the Deputy Mayor for Education, to review school boundaries and the regulations that govern DC Public Schools (DCPS) student assignment; and

WHEREAS, an Advisory Committee was established to provide recommendations to the Deputy Mayor for Education prior to final recommendations to the Mayor on both the basic premises and specific rules governing student assignments and possible new school boundaries; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F encompasses two DCPS schools – the Ben W. Murch Elementary School and the Phoebe Hearst Elementary Schools – and is also within the Alice Deal Middle School and Woodrow Wilson High School boundaries; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F supports the basic social concept of a government responsibility to make available publically funded education and have that education be as universally high-quality as possible; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee released its initial proposed boundary changes on April 5, 2014; and

WHEREAS, these proposals included a concept to move the southern boundary of Murch /northern boundary of Hearst from Yuma Street NW to Chesapeake Street NW, reassigning an area of 60 city blocks – comprised of 483 single-family homes and seven large apartment complexes – from the Murch boundaries to the Hearst boundaries, starting with the 2015 school year; and

WHEREAS, one of the primary purposes of this proposed boundary change was an attempt to alleviate projected overcrowding at Murch based on perceived availability of enrollment capacity at Hearst due to its high percentage of out-of-boundary students; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Mayor for Education has emphasized such factors as walkability and neighborhood cohesiveness in considering boundary proposals, and students from these areas live in an area that has traditionally considered Murch to be a focal point for the community and will be geographically distant from Hearst, as well as required to cross Reno Road, a minor arterial thoroughfare, to walk to school; and

WHEREAS, improving schools is a long process and that maintaining access in the interim to high quality schools and their feeder pattern for families in neighborhoods with struggling schools is an important goal of any student assignment and feeder system; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F is not aware of strong data-driven analysis to justify the proposed changes, leading to concerns that the proposed shift was not the product of quantitative measures and could just as easily have involved the movement of other school boundaries instead of the Hearst/Murch boundaries; and

WHEREAS, families living in the affected area have expressed strong and unambiguous opposition to the proposed boundary changes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, for the reasons stated above, that ANC 3F opposes the proposed change to the Murch/Hearst boundary; and

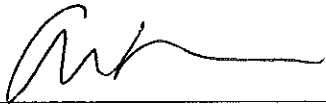
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 3F requests the Advisory Committee to provide more concrete, data-driven justifications for all further boundary change proposals across the entire District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 3F reserves the right to provide further specific recommendations prior to the submission of the final recommendation to the Mayor; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commissioners Malachy Nugent, Manolis Priniotakis and Adam Tope are authorized to speak on behalf of ANC 3F regarding these issues.

[Signature page follows]

ANC 3F approved this resolution at its meeting on April 22, 2014, which was properly noticed and a quorum present. The resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0-0.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Tope', written over a horizontal line.

Adam Tope, Chair