

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

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**Resolution on Prohibition on Entry into the Alley
Between Garrison St. and Fessenden St. NW from 36th Street**

WHEREAS, the neighborhood streets south of Nevada Ave. NW have become an increasingly popular route for commuters attempting to get to Connecticut Ave. NW, with heavy traffic and high speeds leading to concerns about safety for neighborhood residents; and

WHEREAS, the intersection of 36th and Fessenden Streets NW, connecting to Connecticut Ave., presents serious traffic complications that have implications for traffic confusion, pedestrian safety, and general traffic safety, to include confusing signals, patterns that encourage driver risk-taking, and high speeds in the surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the *Rock Creek West II Livability Study* (RCWII) included the following about the intersection:

“The intersection with Connecticut Avenue, 36th Street, and Fessenden Street has an awkward configuration due to the diagonal alignment of Connecticut Avenue intersecting with the other streets. This creates sight distance issues. Survey respondents reported a failure to yield on the part of motorists.¹”; and

WHEREAS, the above section from the *RCWII* study also notes problems with stop signs at the intersection – namely that 36th Street has stop signs at the northwest and southeast corners of the intersection, while Fessenden Street lacks one on either side of 36th Street; and

WHEREAS, this situation has an unintended consequence of creating extensive backups on 36th Street, especially in the morning, which can result in a lengthy wait to turn right onto Fessenden Street in order to get through the intersection with Connecticut Ave.; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F recognizes additional problems related to cars turning off 36th and into the alley between Garrison St. and Fessenden St. NW for the same purposes and will seek to address this problem in a separate action; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the traffic pattern described above, it is not uncommon to see drivers approaching the intersection on 36th Street NW to take one of the following actions:

¹ “Rock Creek West II Livability Study,” DC Department of Transportation, Final Report, Dec. 2010, page 60.

- Turn left onto Garrison Street, followed by a right on 34th Street and another right on Fessenden in order to bypass the backup on 36th Street, with drivers using this unintended bypass at high speed, creating serious pedestrian safety concerns on Garrison, 34th NW and Fessenden Streets; or
- Cut through the CVS parking lot in order to turn onto Connecticut Ave.; or
- Cut through the BP station in order to turn onto Connecticut Ave.; or
- Block the box at 36th and Fessenden Streets; or
- Rush through the intersection at Connecticut Ave.; and

WHEREAS, the high speeds on Garrison St. present a danger to residents of the street; and

WHEREAS, these patterns result in additional impacts further in the neighborhood, as the lack of a stop sign on Fessenden at the intersection encourages drivers to travel from Nevada and Linnean Aves. and onto 34th Street, with residents noting a long-standing problem of high speeds along 34th Street in the morning rush hours; and

WHEREAS, these actions put the safety of pedestrians and drivers is at risk, to include pedestrians attempting to make their way to the commercial zone in the 5000 block of Connecticut Ave. and residents of Garrison, 34th, Linnean Terrace and other streets in the area and visitors parking on those streets to attend events at Politics and Prose or another of the businesses on the block; and

WHEREAS, ANC 3F passed a resolution on May 20, 2014, calling for DDOT to install a sign on the prohibition of left turns onto Garrison St. off of 36th St. between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., Monday-Friday and heard broad community support for this resolution during the meeting to consider its passage; and

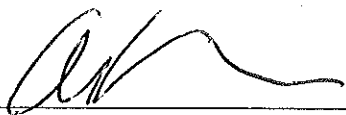
WHEREAS, residents of Fessenden St. and Garrison St. expressed concern that the prohibition on left turns onto Garrison St. from 36th St. will lead to more drivers using the alley between Garrison St. and Fessenden St. as an alternative cut-through, a practice that is both dangerous and illegal; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, for the reasons stated above, ANC 3F supports a prohibition on entry from 36th St. NW into the alley between Garrison St. and Fessenden St. NW between the hours of 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. on Monday through Friday and a sign at the spot notifying drivers of such restriction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Commissioner Manolis Priniotakis is authorized to speak on behalf of ANC 3F regarding these issues.

[Signature page follows]

ANC 3F approved this resolution at its meeting on June 17, 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 be 'A. Tope', written over a horizontal line.

Adam Tope, Chair