

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

3F01 – David Cristeal  
 3F02 – Carolinn Kuebler, Vice Chair  
 3F03 – Naomi Rutenberg, Treasurer  
 3F04 – Leah Frelinghuysen  
 3F05 – Andrea Molod, Secretary  
 3F06 – Monika Nemeth, Chair  
 3F07 – Vacant



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**Public Meeting – April 21, 2020**  
 Virtual Meeting via WebEx

**MINUTES**

ANC 3F convened their regular meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 over the internet at <https://dcnet.webex.com> Meeting number: 477 596 066 Password: 3M4NuCTJWv3. The meeting was duly advertised and open to the public. Copies of resolutions approved are available at [www.anc3f.com](http://www.anc3f.com).

Commissioners Present:      Molod  
                                          Kuebler  
                                          Nemeth  
                                          Frelinghuysen  
                                          Rutenberg  
                                          Cristeal

ITEM	VOTE	KEYWORDS
Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to approve the regular agenda and the consent agenda.	6-0-0	
Commissioner Molod made to a motion to send a letter to ABRA in support of the DC Sake Co. liquor license application on the condition DC Sake Co. accepts the Settlement Agreement.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the Pierce Mill grant application.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the 2020 Q2 Financial Report.	5-0-0	
Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to adjourn.	5-0-0	

Call to Order:                      7:35 PM  
 Adjournment:                      10:18 PM

## AGENDA ITEMS

### **1. Swearing-In of Commissioner David Cristeal, 3F01**

Councilmember Mary Cheh, Councilperson representing Ward 3, swore in Commissioner David Cristeal as the representative for ANC3F01.

### **2. Approval of Regular Agenda**

Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to approve the regular agenda and the consent agenda. The consent agenda contains the approval of minutes from November 2019 and January 2020. Motion was approved with 6 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (6-0-0).

### **3. Commissioner Updates and Announcements**

Commissioner Molod: None

Commissioner Kuebler: Wanted to thank everyone for joining and tell them that she's in Ohio taking care of family.

Commissioner Nemeth: Wanted to thank everyone for joining.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen: None

Commissioner Rutenberg: Wanted to thank everyone for joining.

Commissioner Cristeal: None

### **4. Community Forum**

Gloria Garcia from Van Ness Main Street said they are trying to get grants for businesses.

Contact [info@vannessmainstreet.org](mailto:info@vannessmainstreet.org) if you need help with a grant.

### **5. Committee Reports**

Housing (Cristeal): They are drafting a letter to Councilmember Bonds to support Ward 3 affordable housing and include mental health assessments. They are looking at practices for DC from New York about mixed development.

Streets and Sidewalks (Deyling): There is no information on the Connecticut Avenue study.

Parks and Trails (Nemeth): There is a new chair, Erica Rosenberg

Councilmember Cheh said that DDOT is looking for places to make room for pedestrians. They would like requests to come through the ANC about areas and roads that should be set aside for pedestrians and bikes during this emergency period. Interested people should contact [vision.zero@dc.gov](mailto:vision.zero@dc.gov) for feedback about road closures. In addition, the Mayor's budget has been delayed until May, so we still have 50 days. They will ask non-government people to submit testimony in writing before the hearing. The only witnesses allowed at this point will be government officials.

For housing issues, she suggested the ANC get in touch with Abigail Mclean at [amclean@dccouncil.us](mailto:amclean@dccouncil.us).

## **6. Presentation from Dept of Human Services and Days Inn regarding COVID-19 Response**

Jamie Howser, Days Inn, Chris Geldart, DPW director and run operations for city Covid-19 response ([chris.geldart@dc.gov](mailto:chris.geldart@dc.gov)), and Larry Hanrahan, DHS presented information.

Director Geldart gave an overview and said they are supporting vulnerable populations and need to quarantine folks exposed or with known infection. They looked for space. Vulnerable people live in a shelter or cannot go home, so they found hotels willing to help. 5 hotels are being utilized by 222 people in isolation/quarantine. The length of stay fluctuates anywhere from 5-14 days stay. They have medical staff at the hotel if anyone gets worse, i.e., to check on sick people and send them to the hospital if needed. They also help the sick get medication. They have staff to check on needs, feed the residents, clean, and they also have security staff. Guests are told to stay in rooms. Food is brought into them. Jamie Howser of Days Inn confirmed what Director Geldart stated, and said that the DC government has been great to work with. Director Geldart said that he knows there are some concerns from the NBC news story, but they have ensured that Waste Management understands the increased need for trash removal and told them it is not medical waste. They also spoke to staff about leaving the hotel in PPE used inside, as was described in the news story. Director Geldart said that this is not happening. They are using PPE to go outside like anyone else.

Councilmember Cheh said she has some questions and issues:

(i) The first way Councilmember Cheh learned about the use of Days Inn was by being stopped on the street by a reporter who saw her walking and asked her about it. Why was no notice given? A: DC was in a hurry to implement the program.

(ii) CM Cheh also wanted to know (sent a letter to HHS) why this hotel was selected? A: This hotel was willing to work with the city. Q (Cheh): This Days Inn is in a very busy area of the neighborhood so that is what raises the community's concern.

(iii) Question about PPE used inside: Is this medical waste? Should staff be walking into stores with it on? Dr. Nesbitt, Director of the DC Department of Health, said we should wear masks in public, so the staff wears it, but is it ok for them to wear the same PPE they wore inside to go outside?

(iv) By not telling us about the use of the Days Inn for Covid-19 residents in advance, it made people think they were being put in more danger than they actually were.

(v) Is the program being run by DC staff or by an independent contractor? If a contractor, then who is monitoring them?

A (Director Geldart): It is not an independent contractor, instead it is overseen by the Department of Human Services. PPE is already in place at all sites, not only at hotels. There are also procedures for how to don and doff PPE. Most rules require gloves and a mask. The staff that is in contact with the residents directly wear more stringent PPE (gown, e.g.). Once they are done seeing residents, they should doff PPE before they go to other areas of the hotel. All

PPE are no different than what folks use at home with sick loved ones, so it is not medical waste.

Councilmember Cheh said that the report said that staff went to Burger King wearing PPE. Director Geldart said it was a Tyvex suit, not issued by them and they told the reporter what he was wearing. The staff now are told not to wear their PPE when they leave the hotel.

Director Geldart responded to the question about why the choice of this hotel in a busy part of the city. He said that the criterion for choosing hotels were: 1) Is it a site where we can ensure folks can convalesce? And 2) owners were willing to help. They were lucky to have Days Inn as a partner because not all hotel owners are willing. They need to do a site assessment. What has to be put in place to minimize risk to the community?

Councilmember Cheh reiterated that we wish we had known ahead of time because it would have quelled anxiety. The residents also asked about ways to help. Where should we direct people? Answer: The DPW operations section deals with volunteers. They will send a link/email address where people can volunteer. They have a partnership with a well-known site where people can connect. Councilmember Cheh also wants Director Geldart to understand that people are freaked out because they did not know what was going on.

Questions from Commissioners:

Commissioner Frelinghuysen asked if there was an infection control officer overseeing the Days Inn activity? Answer: Director Geldart said no, they do not have an officer at every site. They do oversight for all operations. It is not considered a medical facility, but convalescence, so there is no need.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen asked where are residents getting food? Answer: There is a contract for individual meals to be brought in.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen asked how are they protecting the cleaning staff? Did they get training beforehand? Answer: The DHS staff and hotel staff worked together to determine the best way to clean to minimize exposure for all.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen asked what type of disinfectant is used? Is it hospital grade? Answer: It is the same as for all government facilities where essential employees are still working.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen asked if staff onsite is not wearing the PPE they wore indoors when they leave, how are they enforcing that? Answer: They have security staff. There is staff at entrances and exits.

Commissioner Molod asked why is the trash not medical waste? It is not like at home, but there are LOTS of people. Answer: Across all 5 facilities, 114 people, at some point in time, were Covid positive. They do not know if having more positive people in one place means that the waste is medical.

Commissioner Cristeal said that with the waste material they should want to err on the side of caution and treat it like medical waste. He understands the need as a city and a Ward, but he wants to know what is going on. Why not treat it as medical waste to be safe? It would also allay fear. And is there medical staff onsite? Who makes the call that someone is sick and needs to be in the hospital? Answer: The doctor is there with 5 RNs and medical assistants. They are there to assess and also to treat other health concerns that may put residents at more risk.

Commissioner Cristeal asked what is the game plan going forward? Will it be indefinitely? Or is there a review period after some period of months? Answer: They hope that this ends before a few months. The idea was to provide a place for folks to convalesce that have nowhere else. As we level out, the need for this would subside. They will re-evaluate, but they are not sure when yet. When the city starts to reopen, they probably will commit to the ANC to answer questions.

Commissioner Rutenberg said some residents are ill, some are not. What is the protocol when they arrive? Are they assigned a room where they have to stay for a fixed period? Answer: When people arrive, there is in-processing, separate populations (floors, sides of the building): those exposed, those positive, those asymptomatic. They are increasing testing in the city. They will put them into nursing homes and isolation sites, so they can test right away upon arrival. Also, if they are not symptomatic, they want to test after 5 days. Right now, it is a 14-day quarantine period. People will stay in their rooms only for 14 days, but are allowed onto their balcony.

Other questions from the public:

What is the capacity at Days Inn? A (Howser): The hotel has 155 rooms. Director Geldart said some rooms are used for staff, so actually it is a little lower than 155.

Why are so many police and ambulance vehicles present? Answer: They are not sure why, but they will look into it.

People are congregating across the street. Are they residents? Can residents leave the place? Answer: They had several conversations about the ability to do isolation/quarantine. These people would be elsewhere if they could be. If someone is non-compliant, they need to be removed from the facility. There will not be a large gathering of residents. If seen, they will reach out.

How long is the contract with Days Inn? A (Howser): It is 90 days (started April 10<sup>th</sup>) and they hope it ends then. They left it open ended.

Why is there secrecy around locations and why is it not announced? Answer: Director Geldart agrees with Councilmember Cheh that it came on quickly. The other reason is these are people that are convalescing and there are concerns about privacy. Frankly they have been ramping it up to scale as needed. There is a large population needing this service. First it was 60 people from out of District that could not go home. Will the other locations be disclosed? Answer: Not sure.

Director Geldart said the dedication of DC employees has humbled him in DPW. They are motivated, come to work, and the public is voicing gratitude.

### **7. Presentation from Captain Bernat, MPD**

Crime-wise the 2nd District is down 63% in all categories. In PSA 203, the 30-day comparison from the same time last year is a 51% reduction in crime. He wanted to point out the district-wide issue with theft from autos and stolen autos is down.

Capt Bernat spoke about what MPD is doing about the Mayor's shelter in place order. They get updates on order and enforcement. They are still operating at full capacity. They are trained on how to keep officers protected. Some calls are being diverted to call-in reporting, but if there is a crime in progress, officers will respond.

Connecticut Avenue Days Inn had several police cars. There was a disorderly person refusing to leave the hotel, but may have been resolved before officers arrived.

They are also doing enforcement of Mayor's orders. They are implementing social distancing with strangers. They are asking people to wear masks and gloves. When MPD sees a violation, they will try to get voluntary compliance. Then they can issue a citation or make an arrest, but they want to limit arrests. They have gotten calls for people on skateboards, runners, joggers. etc. All are allowed. They will not respond to these.

Stores are asking residents to wear masks going inside. They cannot make you wear mask, but they can ask anyone to leave. If you refuse it is against the unlawful entry statute.

For violations by commercial establishments, MPD will investigate and turn the report to DCRA or ABRA. They can shut down the business.

Questions: Commissioner Nemeth said the Mayor's order says they are required to wear masks in a food establishment, correct? Answer: They do not specify patrons of food stores, just sellers, but they encourage people to wear masks in any food store.

Commissioner Molod: During traffic stops they do not seem to be engaged in safe practices. They are too close to violators and are handing papers back and forth. Answer: The policy is to wear masks when possible. Sometimes it is not possible in an emergency. For traffic stops, they have electronic ticket writers. Officers have cell phones and they can do the tickets electronically, but the ticket must be handed to the violator. They should wear gloves, if not, call MPD.

Commissioner Frelinghuysen said enforcement should be done on closed playgrounds and local parks since she has seen people there. Are those places patrolled? If the playground is closed, how are they enforcing people violating that signage? Answer: If an officer sees them, they will ask people to leave.

### **8. Community Open Forum – None**

## **9. Burger King Renovation – 4422 Connecticut Ave.**

Mark James, owner of Burger King, met with the ANC to talk about plans and renovations. There were questions about the drive-thru and pedestrian crossing and some ADA issues. Blake Smith, from Smith Engineering is the architect who put together the rendering to address concerns about the sidewalk that crosses the drive. They will put a brick paver across the drive aisles with a cue to pedestrians. They will have a patio area, an ADA ramp to the front door and handicap spaces. Robert Zapulla, with AKA Studio, showed a rendering of the pavers and the ADA ramps.

Commissioner Nemeth asked what is the time frame? Answer: James said they are looking to get into the stages of permitting now.

Commissioner Molod asked what permits are needed? Answer: Typical: building, land development, but no zoning variances. Commissioner Nemeth said there are probably some public space applications for ramps and pavers. They will get back to the ANC on what permits are needed.

From the public: The speaker of the drive thru is too loud.

From Garcia: The front did not have black fencing or an ADA ramp. Is the ramp needed? Answer: Yes, this is the same presentation as before. They need to have a ramp.

Garcia also said it is not a pretty streetscape. Can you make it look better? The issue is of the impervious surface. It is hardscape now, and will be the same as now.

Commissioners and James went back and forth about procedure: Commissioner Rutenberg made it clear that the idea is that they need to find out what is by right and what they need permits for and THEN come to us.

[Commissioner Kuebler left the meeting.]

## **10. D.C. Sake Co. – Liquor license application**

Lyle Blanchard presented information. He said DC Sake is the name for RH Trading LLC. They applied for a Class A Internet License at Domaine at 4220 Connecticut Avenue. ABRA says to post notice on the website ([www.dcsake.com](http://www.dcsake.com)). They are asking for a stipulated license and are asking ANC3F to send a letter in support that would allow issuing a license during the protest period. It has been extended twice by ABRA, due to COVID-19, now to June 1st. Reiko Harai is the owner. She has been a DC resident for 20 years. She wants to share good Japanese sake with DC residents. People can have sake at restaurants, but not many stores carry sake.

Commissioner Molod made to a motion to send a letter to ABRA in support of the DC Sake Co. liquor license application on the condition DC Sake Co. accepts the Settlement Agreement. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

## **11. Pierce Mill Grant Application**

Steve Dryden from Friends of Pierce Mill presented information on the grant application. They worked with the Park Service to restore and reopen the mill. They got grant a few years ago for a barrel hoist. This application is asking for funds for 3 activities: a festival in October (Heritage Day with musicians and blacksmith demonstrations, which always has lots in attendance); a square dance in late June for musicians; and a series of children's family workshops in the summer (Saturdays) to pay the educator.

Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the Pierce Mill grant application. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

### **12. Approval Q2 Financial Report**

Commissioner Rutenberg discussed the financial report. We started Q2 with \$83,704.24. We received interest and dispersed funds to personnel, Forest Hills Connection and the ANC security fund. We ended the quarter with \$78,607.61. We are also in touch with the ANC office because they are behind on review of the quarterly reports and disbursement of our allotment from the District.

Commissioner Rutenberg made a motion to approve the 2020 Q2 Financial Report. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).

Commissioner Nemeth made a motion to adjourn. Motion was approved with 5 voting in favor, 0 voting against, and 0 abstaining (5-0-0).