

**Government of the District of Columbia**  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F**  
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3F01 – David Cristeal  
3F02 – Alexandria Appah, Vice Chair  
3F03 – Dipa Mehta  
3F04 – Stan Wall, Treasurer  
3F05 – Claudette David, Chair  
3F06 – Monika Nemeth  
3F07 – James Tandaric, Secretary



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**Resolution Urging Councilmember Cheh to Secure an Emergency Stop-Work  
Order to Prevent DC Water from Cutting Down or Pruning Trees  
in Soapstone Valley for the Sewer Rehabilitation Project**

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia (“DC”) owns sanitary sewers and manholes, and storm water sewers and outfalls (collectively, the “Assets”) in Soapstone Valley Park (“Soapstone”) located in ANC 3F in Northwest Washington, DC;

WHEREAS, DC has entrusted the management, operation, and maintenance of the Assets to DC Water;

WHEREAS, given their age and condition, it is necessary to rehabilitate the Assets in order to prevent their failure in the future (the “Soapstone Project”);

WHEREAS, DC Water has chosen thermal cured-in-place pipe technology (“thermal CIPP”) to rehabilitate the Assets without considering the alternative ultra-violet CIPP technology (“UV”);

WHEREAS, under the Clean Air Act, the National Park Service has the legal responsibility to protect air quality and sensitive resources in parks;

WHEREAS, the thermal CIPP technology would introduce air pollution (as a result of manufacturing plastic in the open air), while simultaneously removing hundreds of trees, which would have removed pollutants and carbon outputs naturally, stabilized soil, reduced noise, and served as habitats for animals in Soapstone;

WHEREAS, no form of CIPP technology should be used without controlling and monitoring water and air pollution to protect the health and safety of plants, animals and humans that live in and surround Soapstone;

WHEREAS, residents and Commissioners of ANC 3F have raised significant concerns about thermal CIPP both because of its harmful impacts on the environment and the health risks posed to nearby residents, children in a nearby pre-school, and local business owners and patrons;

WHEREAS, thermal CIPP involves the use of heavy equipment vehicles, which necessitates the removal and pruning of hundreds of trees within and adjacent to the limits of disturbance (the “LOD”) established by DC Water, NPS and the contractor, while the alternative UV technology has a materially smaller environmental footprint;

WHEREAS, by Resolution passed on January 18, 2022 (the “Resolution,” attached as [Exhibit A](#)), ANC 3F urged Mayor Bowser, DC Water, the District’s Department of Energy and Environment (“DOEE”), and the National Park Service to suspend temporarily the Soapstone Project in order to evaluate the alternative UV technology and compare it to thermal CIPP in order to determine which process is the most effective *and* safest method;

WHEREAS, by letter dated January 21, 2022 (the “Letter,” attached as [Exhibit B](#)), Councilmember Cheh requested Director Tommy Wells of DOEE to share its findings regarding the release of toxins and contaminants into the water and air as a result of the thermal CIPP technology and requested that DOEE conduct such an assessment if it has not already done so;

WHEREAS, by email dated February 14, 2022 (the “Email,” attached as [Exhibit C](#)), the Commissioner for ANC 3F03 requested Air Quality Supervisor Stephen Ours of DOEE to require an air permit for the Soapstone Project or explain why a permit is not needed;

WHEREAS, both the Resolution and the Letter seek to temporarily suspend the Soapstone Project until DC Water and DOEE complete an analysis and comparison of the thermal CIPP and UV technologies, including weighing the different environmental and human health impacts of each;

WHEREAS, DC Water notified ANC 3F on Friday, February 11, 2022 (attached as [Exhibit D](#)) that it will proceed with the thermal CIPP process for the Soapstone Project despite the serious and well-documented science-based environmental and health safety concerns raised by area residents, the Commissioners of ANC 3F, and Councilmember Cheh;

WHEREAS, DC Water has begun site preparation for the Soapstone Project, including for the tagging, removal and pruning of trees on NPS and DDOT property to make way for the heavy equipment required by the thermal CIPP process chosen by DC Water; and

WHEREAS, the removal of trees in Soapstone and subsequent deployment of thermal CIPP technology during the Soapstone Project will result in irreparable harm to the residents and environment around Soapstone.

THEREFORE, ANC 3F urges Councilmember Cheh to:

1. Immediately secure a stop-work order under the emergency powers of the City Council to prevent the removal and pruning of more than 500 trees (primarily for vehicle access

required for the thermal CIPP technology) in Soapstone within and adjacent to the LOD for the Soapstone Project; and

2. Continue pursuing answers to the questions raised in her Letter to Director Tommy Wells of DOEE to ensure the sanctity of Soapstone Valley and the health and safety of residents, school children and business owners/patrons in the immediate adjacent areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissioners Mehta and Wall are authorized to speak on behalf of ANC 3F regarding this matter.

ANC 3F approved this resolution at its meeting on February 15, 2022, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present, by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstaining.



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Claudette David  
Chair, ANC 3F