



CLEVELAND PARK
SMART GROWTH

2020 ANC Candidate Questionnaire

Thank you for running for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner! ANCs play a key role in our neighborhoods and we are fortunate for those of you willing to dedicate volunteer service to making our communities better. This year, Cleveland Park Smart Growth is asking all candidates running in ANCs 3C and 3F to respond to our Candidate Questionnaire below. We will publish your responses on our website so voters can learn more about you.

There is no space limit to your responses so use as much space as you need under each question. Please use this document to enter your responses, save it with you last name in file name, and return it (ideally as a PDF) via email to cpsmartgrowth@gmail.com by **5pm on October 5th**.

Name: Trish Berman
SMD: 3C05

1) As you may know, DDOT is studying the future operations of Connecticut Ave from Chevy Chase through Woodley Park. As an ANC Commissioner, what would your priorities be for the future configuration of Connecticut Ave?

The reversible lane project which proposed four different options could significantly change the flow to the Cleveland Park/Connecticut Avenue strip. I believe there is a serious need to make the area safer for all concerned. The number of accidents that occur during reversible lanes hours, which includes, bicycles, pedestrians, and automobiles needs to be addressed. While I lean towards alleviating reversible lanes, I also have concerns that the result may cause other safety issues. For example, frustrated drivers cutting through the side streets at high speeds. I think that any major changes must be explored with the understanding that there is uncertainty about new patterns of work, behavior, traffic and transportation defined by a post COVID city.

2) What policies should the city pursue that you would support as an ANC Commissioner to help reduce car-dependency?

The policy which I think will be most important for the city to pursue to help reduce car dependency will be to provide safety and cleaning protocols for metro and buses. The public must be reassured that the public transportation systems are safe to ride. The COVID pandemic may have set back public transportation, at least for the short term. Confidence in the metro systems will be key to reducing car dependency in the coming year.

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3) Should this part of the city be contributing more new housing as the city grows? Why? Whether new housing is necessary for our growing city should be revisited and more recent data should be analyzed. Pre-Covid expected growth in the city had begun to slow and during this pandemic there is evidence that families have relocated away from urban centers.

3a) If yes, what are some of the ways in which your Single Member District and your broader Advisory Neighborhood Commission area can add housing?

If a need arises for new housing in Ward 3, initially, I would like to see investigation into creative reuse of existing structures. Spaces that have closed due to the pandemic could possibly be redeveloped into affordable housing options. It is very possible that hotels, offices and other building closures may be able to serve the need for more housing in the immediate area and greater Ward 3. Change and growth can be appropriate goals for Cleveland Park, provided they are pursued in conjunction with our historic neighborhood character. Revised zoning must be weighed in terms of impacts to infrastructure, schools, traffic, safety and environmental concerns.

4) ANC 3C includes the Woodley Park Historic District and most of the Cleveland Park Historic District, while 3F includes part of the Cleveland Park HD (Sedgwick & Tilden Gardens). How will you approach Historic Preservation applications in your SMD (if applicable) and in your ANC generally?

I would approach Historic Preservation applications with an open mind and view each application through its own unique lens. I would educate myself on each aspect of the application and listen carefully to those who are trained in historic preservation as well as the stakeholders and give weight to the needs of each particular project.

5) What steps would you take to make your ANC more transparent, inclusive and engaged with your community?

I have been engaged in this community for many years, but I will always need to make certain that all are included in the discussion about any issues they consider important. I will listen and learn. I will respond to all questions and when possible, hold in person or virtual office hours on a regular basis. My intention is to use the Cleveland Park listserv as well as a newsletter specifically for my SMD to communicate with my constituents.

6) What else do you want neighbors to know about you and why you are running to represent them?

I am running for ANC commissioner to serve this vibrant urban neighborhood. People chose to move to Cleveland Park for many different reasons; closeness to Rock Creek Park, the historic neighborhood, proximity to houses of worship, excellent schools, metro, proximity to shopping, and more. Regardless of why you chose Cleveland Park, I am committed to represent and listen to all of you. As a commissioner, I will use a common sense balanced approach to the issues, so everyone may benefit from living in our community.

Use as much space as needed in your responses. Please save your responses to PDF format, include your last name in the file name, and email to cpsmartgrowth@gmail.com by 5pm, October 5th. Thank you!

About Cleveland Park Smart Growth

CP Smart Growth is a community of over 500 Cleveland Park-area residents who share an interest in promoting and discussing urbanist issues. Our mission is to advance smart growth policies in Cleveland Park to ensure an economically vibrant, environmentally sustainable, and socially inclusive neighborhood. We do this through education, organizing, and advocacy.

Learn more at cpsmartgrowth.com