



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 your last name in file name, and return it (ideally as a PDF) via email to [cpsmartgrowth@gmail.com](mailto:cpsmartgrowth@gmail.com) by **5pm on October 5th**.

Name: Janell Pagats  
SMD: 3C03

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?

*Improving safety needs to be the top priority. There is not going to be one solution that is going to make everyone totally happy, but I do believe the shared goal here needs to be getting to a solution that improves safety for as many people as possible across all modes of travel.*

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

*More bike lanes and improved bus routes/schedules. I do like the idea of more dedicated bus lanes too. They seem to be working where they are being rolled out so far, improving traffic and on-time performance.*

*I also think there should be a study into how much safety issues hold back mass transit ridership among women and what could be done to mitigate and improve. Women make up more than 50% of the population in DC. This has studied in other major cities including LA - <https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/01/16/transit-systems-must-respond-to-womens-safety-concerns/>*

3) Should this part of the city be contributing more new housing as the city grows? Why?

*Absolutely. Because it historically has not been, and generations of DC residents miss out on all the opportunities that are available in Ward 3 because they are not able to purchase or rent the existing housing stock.*

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?

*There is not (if any) room left for much more new housing in my SMD but I would be an advocate for it as part of the broader ANC. Again, with the understanding that there are not a whole lot of solutions to this that are going to make everyone happy, but compromise can be had if we all can agree to give a little.*

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 love the historic aspects of these neighborhoods and it was one of the many reasons I have chosen to live here! I do think that Historic Preservation does not mean that nothing can change, and everything is scared. There is balance and respect to be found.*

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

*I would encourage more renters to participate and feel welcome engaging at ANC meetings. As someone who was a renter here for nine years prior to purchasing my unit last year, it was some what intimidating to participate because I felt like the meetings and conversations were largely dominated by home-owners who announced themselves as such and that they had been for decades. Regardless of status, we are all neighbors and should be treated equally when engaging with the larger community. If people feel like they are treated like they are just going to pass through the neighborhood after a year or two, it does no one any favors.*

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

*I am a huge nerd when it comes to history, the built environment, obscure and fun facts about the District. Love hearing more stories along these lines from folks who have been around and look forward to meeting more people who might share that interest in while this role.*

*My professional experience will also help in this role. I work for a global, independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, architects, consultants and technical specialists, working across every aspect of today's built environment as a professional services marketer. I do not do the*

*technical stuff but do know a little about a lot! I work for this firm because of their commitment to a number of initiatives that are important to me including diversity, equality and inclusion; a myriad of climate change commitments; and the United Nations Sustainable Development goals (UN SDGs - <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>) - a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. We, as a firm, are using the UN SDGs as a guide to deciding what projects we are willing to pursue because of our commitment to shaping a better world. These would guide my thinking and reasoning serving on the ANC. What would guide me more is listening - that is the single most important role ANC reps play!*

**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](mailto:cpsmartgrowth@gmail.com) by 5pm, October 5th. Thank you!**

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### **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](http://cpsmartgrowth.com)