



CLEVELAND PARK
SMART GROWTH

2022 ANC Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Justin Daniels SMD: 3C06

1) What are the main issues you hope to address as an ANC Commissioner?

Creating a safer, accessible Connecticut Avenue for all: Connecticut Avenue, a critical economic and transport corridor for D.C. and our ANC, is not meeting the needs of our neighborhood. It's been designated a "high crash" corridor, cars continue to run red lights, and it's not friendly to cyclists. I fully support Concept C with bike lanes, which by separating cycle and scooter traffic from pedestrians and cars will make everyone safer. I also support efforts to increase pedestrian safety through redesigned crosswalks, HAWK signaling, and speed-reduction devices throughout the ANC, including side streets. I pledge to work with WMATA to restore L1 bus service, and increase the frequency and performance of bus service through queue jumps and other bus-prioritization technologies. At the same time, I want to work with Connecticut Avenue businesses to mitigate any negative impacts of these changes and ensure their ability to load and unload goods as needed.

As regards the service lane, I support the current redesign plan to raise it to sidewalk level so that it can be used as a mixed-use space.

Housing: I will encourage the construction of new housing in our ANC, including ADUs, new duplexes, and small apartment buildings. I will also support efforts to build housing on top of businesses on top of Connecticut Avenue.

Environment: Cleveland Park and its surroundings are beautiful; its natural beauty is a major draw for residents and visitors alike. I will work with D.C. agencies to improve landscape maintenance on the Klinge Road and to ensure our public spaces stay in good condition.

2) The Cleveland Park and Woodley Park commercial areas on Connecticut Ave are now allowed to be zoned for greater residential density. What will be your priorities and approach to any rezoning requests for the area that come before the ANC?

I strongly support the construction of new housing on top of businesses in both the Cleveland Park and Woodley Park commercial areas. These are transit-, service-, and amenity- rich areas that can support higher density. My top priority for these areas is the construction of apartments at the highest density allowed (currently medium density). I believe that this can be accomplished while respecting our neighborhood's historic character and charm. A certain percentage of these units should be set aside as affordable housing.

3) How will you incorporate racial equity in your approach as an ANC Commissioner?

Working toward racial equity in the District, and particularly Cleveland Park, is critical given our neighborhood's unfortunate history of racial exclusion. The best way to further inclusion in our neighborhood is through a pro-transit and pro-housing agenda. People of color are more likely to rely on the bus and are less likely to be able to afford our neighborhood's housing prices. In the past ANC3C has funded local charitable organizations, including a food bank, that benefit economically disadvantaged groups. As commissioner, I would further explore using ANC funds to support organizations that advance a racial-equity agenda in our neighborhood. We, both as a community and as individuals, can do more to learn about and recognize Cleveland Park's history of racial exclusion. As commissioner, I would explore opportunities to present this history, such as through the installation of informative signage.

4) ANC 3C includes the Woodley Park Historic District, most of the Cleveland Park Historic District and several historic landmarks. How will you approach Historic Preservation applications in your SMD (if applicable) and in ANC 3C generally?

While it is important to maintain our connection to our neighborhood's past, I believe that designations of historic significance should be used very sparingly and in exceptional circumstances. It is crucial that we balance continuity with change. Concerns about historic character should not limit the reasonable construction of much-needed housing or changes to the exteriors of commercial buildings.

5) Are you committed to supporting the Connecticut Ave reconfiguration approach known as Concept C? (Yes or No), and what will be your priorities when it comes to the reconfiguration of Connecticut Ave?

I fully support Concept C, and my top priority as Commissioner will be refining the plan to suit our neighborhood's needs, with a special concern to safety and business access. I will advocate for highly visible, raised barriers between cyclists and the roadway as well as safer embarking and disembarking areas for bus passengers. I will work closely with Cleveland Park businesses to optimize the design and location of the service lane for deliveries as well as rapid pick up and drop off.

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

Cleveland Park is at a crossroad, both in multiple literal senses and a figurative one, between continuity and change. I'm running for ANC to help strike the balance—to build on Cleveland Park's many strengths, including its amenities, green space, and vibrant community, by making our streets safer and adding new housing to increase traffic to our businesses.

While I'm a newer Cleveland Park resident, I'm not new to DC or the importance of service. Since moving here in 2021, I've contributed to our community through volunteering and my

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church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Connecticut Avenue. While I grew up moving around the country as a military child, I've long called Washington home. I also bring an underrepresented voice to our ANC: that of a young, LGBTQ, mixed-race resident. Diversity, equality, and justice— particularly as minority communities face barriers old and new in the wake of the pandemic—will be at the center of my work as ANC.

I've advocated for my community, wherever I have been. While an undergraduate, I worked as an advisor to local high-school students, led extracurricular programming, and served multiple university committees. I developed a passion for state and local issues as a page for the Maryland General Assembly. In my current role as assistant editor of the *Journal of Democracy*, I help publish articles about the struggle and value of democracy. As such, I recognize that democracy starts at the local level, and as ANC I will help ensure D.C.'s democratic processes deliver for Cleveland Park residents.

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