



CLEVELAND PARK
SMART GROWTH

2022 ANC Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Keith Mantel (anc3c08.com)

SMD: 3C08

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

a) **Safety** - I want to improve safety for all of us moving around our neighborhoods. Whether on foot, on a bike, pushing a stroller, using a wheelchair, or driving, we need streets and sidewalks that allow us to live comfortably.

I will prioritize safe and well-maintained sidewalks, which are often inadequate, broken in some parts, covered with overgrowth, or simply non-existent. I welcome your input on where we need to fix our sidewalks, make them more accessible (including adding curb cuts and crosswalks), and discuss a process for adding them where they do not currently exist.

I will also focus on calming traffic and creating safe crossing points on our roadways through improved road designs, signals and stop signs, and stepped-up enforcement. The frequent crashes and lack of safe pedestrian crossing on 34th Street is a particular concern for me. I want to hear your priorities for safety improvement in the area.

b) **Sustainability** - As a homeowner with solar panels and an owner of a fully electric vehicle, I want to make it easier for residents to add solar and EV charging to their homes by advocating the removal of red tape and regulatory hurdles by the Council and District agencies. As a commissioner, I will enthusiastically support projects that come before the ANC that prioritize sustainability. I will also be an advocate for the great DC programs and incentives for both solar and electric vehicles and will look for opportunities to promote their expansion.

c) **Schools** - Ward 3 schools are overcrowded with limited Pre-K 3. Pre-K 3 and 4 are fully-funded programs and a right for every DC family. Yet, in Ward 3 there aren't enough Pre-K 4 slots to meet the demand and absolutely no Pre-K 3 slots. Even the new addition to Eaton did not create enough space for Pre-K3. So, we need to start thinking about how else we can get our youngest students into the public education system now without waiting for a new elementary school to be built, which is years away. I want to bring neighbors together to come up with a proposal for educating the three-year-olds in-lieu of John Eaton since the city can't accommodate them there.

d) **Public spaces** - Our area has great public space amenities like Macomb Recreation Center, Guy Mason, and the new Hearst Pool. But without consistent maintenance, these facilities can let us down. Lack of maintenance is a known problem in DC, and I want to be a proactive ANC

commissioner that establishes good ties with DPR, DGS, NPS, and the community so we can address repairs and upkeep before they become problems. Clean parks, working equipment, and trash emptied before cans are overflowing are not pipe dreams. They are problems that require proactive attention. Together, we can make it happen.

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 think there should be more density added along commercial corridors, near metro and/or transportation hubs. I also think that we can increase the diversity of density throughout the neighborhoods by including ADUs.

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?

I appreciate the historic districts and enjoy the varied sizes and styles of homes in ANC3C. However, I believe strongly that homeowners should be allowed to make modifications to their property as they see fit as long as it falls within safety code requirements.

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?

Yes, and my priority will be pedestrian and bike safety.

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

I'm a dad to two young daughters whom I've chosen to raise in Cleveland Park. I'm running to ensure this neighborhood is a safe and enriching community for all of our families.

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