



CLEVELAND PARK
SMART GROWTH

2022 ANC Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Gawain Kripke SMD: ANC3C07

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

Number one is making our streets safer for all users - especially non-motorists. That means slowing down traffic, prioritizing pedestrians, and providing safe accommodation for cyclists and other micro-mobility. And number one on that is getting a robust renovation of Connecticut Avenue closely aligned with Concept C. That could be transformative for our neighborhood.

Number two is making our neighborhood more inclusive. The most important element is building more housing, with as much affordable housing as possible. Woodley Park and Cleveland Park are amazing communities with incredible amenities and more people should be able to enjoy them. And more people will make our community stronger, our businesses more viable, and, hopefully increase the energy and diversity.

But inclusion also means making sure that we take care of underprivileged and vulnerable people within our community. I want to strongly support initiatives like the Ward 3 pantry and Cleveland and Woodley Park Village. I think we need to pay attention to whether these residents are getting adequate services and support.

We have superb schools - both public and private - and we should do everything we can to support them and make them better, more accessible, and better integrated with our community.

Last is fun. Woodley Park and Cleveland Park have a lot of unrealized potential as centers for fun, entertainment, community, arts and beauty. WP and CP aren't really the destinations they once were, although we have a lot of attractions - especially the Zoo, Tregaron Conservancy. We have a lot to work with and we can do more.

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?

Build more. Make it nice. Include as much affordable and special-needs housing as possible.

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

Our neighborhoods are pretty affluent and not very diverse in terms of race and economic background. So, those residents and their perspectives can easily be missed. As an ANC commissioner, I think it's critical to seek out and listen carefully to residents who are racial minorities, or otherwise less privileged and vulnerable. I think this requires special accommodation since these residents may be not able or comfortable coming to ANC meetings or speaking up in public.

I want a more diverse Woodley and Cleveland Park in the future. We can't (and shouldn't) select new residents based on race or other criteria, but we can make sure our community is as open and welcoming as possible.

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'm a history buff and I love living among the beauty and resonance of old buildings and streetscapes. But cities are living things and should not be locked in amber. And I think historic preservation has really been an obstacle to reasonable, common sense development in some cases. Especially in our commercial centers, which should be inherently dynamic and growing, I would want to be flexible about historic preservation

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. I'm flexible about most details but there has to be protected bike lanes, pedestrian safety improvements, slower and better managed auto traffic. I'm eager to hear and listen to residents and other stakeholders on what they want and need in the renovation.

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

I love our neighborhood and am very grateful to be raising my family here. I feel like we've been gifted with an amazing resource and want to contribute to making our community better, more vibrant, and more fun for the future.

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