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2018 Greater Greater Washington ANC Candidate Questionnaire
Write-in candidate & after deadline responses (**bold** = Endorsed by GGWash)

First Name	Last Name	ANC	ANC/SMD
Nick	Cheolas	5E	5 E01
Nora	Simon	4C	4C04
John	Pitts	6E	6 E04
Sharece	Crawford	8C	8C03
Tiffani	Johnson	4B	4B06
Lauren	Rogers	5C	5C02
Nathaniel	Russ, Jr.	5E	5 E01
Nina	Miller	2B	2B09
Aretha	Jackson	7D	7D05

Name: Nick Cheolas

ANC and Single Member District: 5 E01

What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the McMillan Sand Filtration site? What are your priorities and goals when it comes to balancing new development and green space in our ANC?

ANCs have a key role to play in promoting responsible development and holding contractors and developers accountable. The proposed McMillan project is a substantial one, which will impact traffic, quality of life, and other unforeseen issues. The ANCs can and should play a role in insuring adequate consideration of affordable housing, green space, and effective traffic flow with major projects like McMillan. But we can't let the need for deliberation become an obstacle to progress. We've allowed a decades-long fight over McMillan lead to a vacant property that doesn't provide **any** community benefit. Our community benefits from both responsible development and green space alike. I think the current McMillan plans strike a good balance, and hope the project can move forward soon. Going forward, and as ANC Commissioner, I pledge to advocate for that balance in future projects.

What is your opinion of the Rhode Island Shopping Center (Forman Mills) redevelopment?

ANCs play an important role in advocating for responsible development projects that impact our constituents. I believe the Rhode Island Shopping Center redevelopment project will have particularly positive impacts on Edgewood and Eckington, and will go a long way toward connecting the two neighborhoods. The project should also have positive impacts on the Metropolitan Branch Trail. Finally, the development promises to promote affordable housing, job creation, and new retail businesses – all near a metro station. It's a prime example of how responsible redevelopment can support our community.

With our neighborhoods becoming more popular, how can we promote quality development that allows more people to move to the neighborhood without pushing longtime residents out? How do we get more quality retail and services to our neighborhood?

The answer is contained within the question: We need to pursue quality projects. As an ANC, I'll work proactively with community members to promote responsible development. That also means working to engage with developers, and keeping an open mind about their proposals. We have an opportunity to work to bridge this gap to promote affordable housing and good jobs that help our community's anchors remain a part of it. Responsible development can help further all of these goals and benefit current and future Edgewood residents – residents that become consumers and catalysts for quality retail and services in our neighborhood.

What are your ideas and priorities on pedestrian, bike and traffic safety in ANC 5E, particularly with regard to problem intersections (along New York and Rhode Island Avenues) and cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets (such as First Street NW or Franklin Street NE)?

Let's start here: DC's current traffic infrastructure is not working for pedestrians, cyclists, or drivers. In my particular SMD, I would support or at least explore raised crosswalks, a light at 8th and Monroe, closing the 8th Street gap on the MBT (between Franklin and Monroe), and a protected bike lane on Franklin. These are localized solutions to local problem spots. But we also need to have a broader conversation about what mix of transit and mobility options works for our community. For example, many Edgewood, Brookland, Eckington, and Bloomingdale residents commute using the MBT, which ends at Union Station, leaving downtown commuters to largely fend for themselves. An effective approach to transit safety must account for the ways people actually and regularly get around the city. As ANC Commissioner, I will support and advocate for DDOT transit studies on the neighborhood level, and of problem intersections.

What is your stance on the recently approved Bloomingdale Historic District?

Our community's rich history is part of what makes it special. There are any number of historic homes and businesses deserving of preservation. But we can't allow for abuses of historic designations when they're a proxy for overall opposition to development or change. And a historical designation process that affects the community should at least consider the wishes of that community. I worry that the Bloomingdale Historic District designation went too far, for some of the wrong reasons, because of a flawed process. As I've outlined throughout this questionnaire, I hope to work as an ANC to engage constituents and strike the right balance to promote responsible development that doesn't diminish our community's roots.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

This is an issue that entails costs, benefits, and trade-offs for both residents and commuters. As ANC Commissioner, I would work to address this on a case-by-case basis given the different types of thoroughfares in my district and the relative costs and benefits of each proposal. For instance, removing on-street parking for commuters who use 8th street near Monroe as a free metro parking lot is a relatively small cost. But removing on-street parking for longtime, elderly, or disabled residents carries a higher cost. These costs should be weighed against the benefits of a proposed bus or bike infrastructure improvement with the goal of creating the largest net benefit for the community.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

Making a commitment to our city's transportation safety and Vision Zero requires a comprehensive and committed response. As ANCs and community members, we should seek solutions to share and improve our transit infrastructure.

That means exploring more consistent speed limits, consistent "no turn on red" rules, protected bike lanes, dedicated bus lanes, and large-scale infrastructure improvements (like the Florida Avenue Virtual Circle). It also means actively enforcing current traffic laws, particularly those protecting bike and dedicated transportation lanes. This summer's attempt at a Rhode Island Ave. "dedicated bus lane," for example, was plagued by poor infrastructure and enforcement. And bike lanes that force riders to dodge obstacles and doors can be more dangerous than riding in traffic. It's important to focus on the quality of bike lanes as well as the quantity. Finally, we need not see transit planning and safety as a zero-sum game – a comprehensive, thoughtful approach will benefit pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

As outlined above, the development planning and approval process is a prime opportunity for ANCs to advocate for affordable housing. In particular, ANCs have the ability to push for higher inclusionary zoning percentages in large multi-family developments. I believe smart and responsible development helps mitigate affordability challenges even beyond the scope of the particular project and neighborhood. I also believe a cooperative approach to development by the ANCs will maximize our ability to engage with developers and return value to constituents, whether by securing more affordable units, more deeply affordable units, or replacement for redeveloped affordable housing elsewhere, all of which will benefit both current and future residents of Edgewood.

ANCs can also advocate for affordable housing in more informal roles, either by leveraging connections and relationships with government agencies and offices, testifying at council hearings, or simply being available and able to guide community members to the right resources (such as how to certify income to qualify for housing).

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

Three issues that residents have brought to my attention in recent weeks are public safety, 8th Street traffic issues (particularly related to the schools at 8th, Franklin, and Edgewood), and a protected bike lane along Franklin Street.

All of these require an effective coordinator and advocate; somebody who can effectively bridge the gap between residents and the city officials best positioned to respond to and resolve an issue. I know firsthand what a nightmare Franklin can be during rush hour, and an effective solution must account for traffic, cyclists, and pedestrians. I would support studying how best to do this along Franklin street (and it's worth noting the value of infrastructure that allows students to safely bike to school, instead of being dropped off by vehicle).

Public safety is another issue that requires an effective community liaison and partnerships. Residents shouldn't feel powerless in addressing local public safety issues. That's why I want to work to engage with our community and facilitate solutions.

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

I truly enjoy my community and the people in it, and I think there would be many excellent representatives. But I think I'm one of them, for several reasons:

I'm an experienced advocate by day, and part of my job involves understanding the positions on all sides of a given issue, building relationships, and finding a solution that best benefits the people you represent. Those are skills that translate well to serving as an ANC Commissioner.

I would also approach this role with humility, empathy, and few preconceptions about how the job needs to be done. We have community members in my ANC with roots here far deeper than my own; at the same time, our community is growing and changing. Everybody's voice counts, and they deserve an ANC who will listen and advocate on their behalf.

At the end of the day, my core responsibility is to understand community issues and seek the best solutions. And I am well suited for that role.

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

I believe these are the issues - neighborhood historical designations or local development projects, for example - where ANC Commissioners need to be able to take a stand. We will not always be able to please all members of the community. In these situations, though, it is particularly important to make sure community members are heard and understood, and that we as Commissioners engage, educate, and inform the community. Effective communication is a remarkably simple way to diffuse these situations, and it should not be overlooked.

Name: Nora Simon

ANC and Single Member District: 4C04

What is your stance on the controversy and the resulting plans for the Old Hebrew Home redevelopment?

While I was not a part of this decision, I support it wholeheartedly. As Petworth continues to become a more desirable place to live, I believe that we have an obligation to ensure that longtime residents are not priced out of their neighborhood, and that teachers, alongside others who work in the area, can afford to live in the community that they serve. I believe that we can find a balance between new market-price residences and affordable housing, so that we have a thriving, diverse community that safeguards and values all of its members.

What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to safely using and crossing Grant and Sherman Circles?

The DDOT has channeled considerable energy and research into the issues experienced around these circles, so I'll defer to their recommendations here. My hope is that the ultimate solution increases bike and pedestrian safety by slowing the speed of cars as they enter the circles, without removing lanes and causing both traffic and noise congestion for the neighbors who surround them.

How will you work to ensure our public spaces are safe, clean and inviting, and how will you support residents most at risk of displacement in the neighborhood?

I believe that how we use our spaces often dictates how we take care of them. In that spirit, I will always strongly support organizations that provide much-needed grants to small businesses on our stretch of 14th, like Uptown Main Street. Their initiatives, such as providing funding for restaurants to create sidewalk patios, will drive traffic to these locales and help to make the streets more open and inviting. I will also advocate for vacant buildings to be utilized and turned into spaces that add value and character to the community. To protect our most vulnerable populations from displacement, I will advocate for affordable housing. I do not believe that affordable housing comes at the expense of the amenities that our community would want. Just as studies have shown that students thrive and achieve in socio-economically diverse schools, I believe the same is possible for our neighborhoods.

How do you intend to build community between new and longtime residents, who might be at odds concerning changes to the neighborhood?

The more apt question might be: what are the commonalities in what our residents want—both our longest tenured and our newest additions? If we ask, I suspect that we will find their core principles to be the same: people want a safe, clean, inclusive community that provides a high-quality of life. Where opinions may differ will be on the matter of approach. I see the

ANC as playing a key role in helping to create space for public discussion around the issues and opportunities that face our neighborhood. My goal is to provide access to information and facilitate dialogue that results in strategic recommendations that come directly from our community.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

As someone who commutes from Petworth to Clarendon every day via a combination of bus and metro, I am a huge advocate of public transit. However, on-street parking is already scarce, and I would be wary of reducing residential parking while we are still seeing the addition of new multi-family units across the neighborhood. Before making any decisions, I would want to understand the impact to daily commutes. Do most individuals work in areas that are easily accessible by public transit or do they need a car to get around? Are there other viable options near us (parking garages, etc.) if street parking were removed? While these questions require address, I welcome a discussion on how to continue improving public transit/bike infrastructure so that we are more environmentally friendly and can reduce traffic and noise congestion in the neighborhood.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

Many residents in our SMD walk or bike, so I support exploring opportunities that would increase the walkability of our area. I hope to see increased public street lights to provide greater visibility and security after dark, and increased visibility of the signage at the intersection of Randolph and 14th Street. This is a common pedestrian crosswalk, and drivers coming down Randolph Street often mistake it for a four-way stop instead of a two-way, and pull out into oncoming traffic.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

All residents—regardless of economic status—want access to restaurants, grocery stores, and other amenities. However, owners typically open shop where they think the population can support their businesses. I see value in increasing our area's population density, which would lead to greater business infrastructure. Additional multi and single-family units would help to support our current shops and foster a thriving business community. However, I also believe that the ANC has a responsibility to ensure that new buildings provide units at price points that are affordable for the families and individuals who make up our neighborhood. I would give great consideration to proposals that include, and prioritize, affordable housing.

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

Crime is a key concern in the neighborhood, and many residents feel that it has been on the rise over the past year. Crime is symptomatic of broader, underlying issues. While the ANC cannot fight crime, we can advance initiatives and award support to proposals that seek to understand and address the root causes. Whether by advocating for affordable housing or greater economic opportunity, my approach will favor the long-term health of the area.

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

I have stepped up for this position, and, if I am elected, will continue to step up to advocate for my neighbors on the issues that impact us. I love engaging with the community, whether through volunteering with the Uptown Main Street organization, attending local events, or coaching the Banneker High School girls' soccer team. I see the ANC as an incredible opportunity to continue to serve my neighborhood. I am committed to engaging my neighbors and involving them in the decisions that will impact their daily lives. The Washington Post recently hailed 14th street between Spring and Quincy as the "best cheap eats and drinks in DC." Each year, the area is becoming a more attractive place to live. I want to help ensure that the neighborhood is scaling in way that is responsible to current residents and sustainable for future ones.

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

Our SMD, and the larger ANC, does not exist in a vacuum. The decisions we make can and will have an impact beyond our boundaries. I believe that it is possible to advance initiatives that benefit our neighborhood and the broader city as a whole.

Name: John Pitts

ANC and Single Member District: 6 E04

What are your hopes and/or concerns about the redevelopment proposals for Northwest One?

Northwest One should be developed to maximize housing density while ensuring that all previous residents have a unit to move into once the project is complete. My biggest concern is the amount of time it is taking. When low income families are displaced from a neighborhood for too long, that displacement becomes permanent for many of them.

What are your top priorities for the North Capitol Street and New York Avenue corridors?

The “Dave Thomas” traffic circle need a complete rebuild. I generally favor virtual circle concept 3, even though it has fewer protections for cyclists. Neither 3 nor 6 are full solutions. At New York and N, the city should either remove the bollards and allow traffic to flow through or place a curb and permanently close N to traffic from New York. With all the new units coming in at Chapman Stables, now is the time. My biggest priority for North Capitol is the development of the parking lot North East of North Capitol and New York.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

I would approach it as if no on street parking existed and we were deciding afresh whether to use the space for bus transit, cycling, or street parking. Where significant institutions exist that are dependent on street parking, I would favor a flexible approach that limited parking usage to times of heaviest use, and phased in greater bus and cycling use over time.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

6th Street bike lane(s) ASAP. Drop the surface street speed limit to 25 as the default, with exceptions to bring the limit back up to 30 if a strong case can be made. I would advocate for the lights at 5th and New York to be re-timed to permit pedestrians to cross all the way from Safeway to the North side of L in a single cycle. Place speed cameras on 6th.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

Maximize housing density and minimize parking space requirements. I am somewhat skeptical of required affordable rate units in order to permit a large project, though I support incentives for affordable units.

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

We are relatively light on controversy, but the biggest challenge is that we sit at the intersection of four city council districts, having been given away by Jack Evans during the last redistricting. That means we may continue to pass from district to district, which lowers the incentive of any council member to make a long term investment in the neighborhood. I am also concerned that many of the city serving businesses at the City Vista have lost their lease (price increases due to the positives of development) and have not yet been replaced.

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

Honestly, I'm not. I would not run but for the fact that no one else is and I'm not willing to have our neighborhood languish without representation. In 2 years I hope someone else will step up. If no one does, my vision would be for an ANC that is truly a connected neighborhood north and south of New York Ave, with the new development in 6E07, 06, and 05 creating the feel of an expanding community, not one that is bifurcating.

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

I say yes in my back yard.

Name: Sharece Crawford

ANC and Single Member District: 8C03

What is your opinion on the controversy surrounding the Congress Heights Metro area redevelopment? What is your vision for the area, and how do you plan on supporting existing residents there?

I was the siting ANC who helped stopped the initial development plans. The plans looked great but they were no inclusive of residents. I will always put residents first. Also the city needs to redefine the term "affordable." It's become a catch all phrase based on the AMI of the entire city that does not equal affordable.

What is your opinion of the Barry Farm redevelopment plans? What is your vision for the site and how do you plan on addressing the situation as a commissioner?

I've worked closely with the current commissioner of Barry Farms. The level of accuracy of how many total residents are eligible to return needs to be spelled out. It's not enough for the city to say we are working to determine the best way to communicate with displaced residents who they have assisted to move. We need more transparency in government. That is a strong area of focus for our campaign.

What are your hopes and/or concerns for the Poplar Point redevelopment plans?

The major concern is what will it cost for the city to maintain the area. We have several parks, one in my current district where the upkeep is failing. If the city takes over the land who will pay for it?

What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment plans around St. Elizabeths?

Silverman failed at oversight on the ESA. This is my current district. I've discussed this with DMPED and Council Member MCDuffie. The ANC needs access to review the RFP before they are submitted.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

NO. Street parking should not be removed.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

The bike lanes should be in the center of the street. Bikes entering and exiting only at intersections.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

The term "Affordable Housing" needs to be redefined.

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

Who negotiates and oversees Community Benefits Agreements and how to ensure the community is actually "Benefiting"

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

In two years I would like to see all residents in my district receiving tax credits from the city to offset the amount of development we are undergoing. I am the best person for the job because I have worked hard in the trenches to have my hands on the pulse of all the decisions being made in this area.

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

City Council repealed a bill that DC voters voted for. This is both local and national. This should not have happened.

Name: Tiffani Johnson

ANC and Single Member District: 4B06

What are your hopes and/or concerns for the redevelopment of the Takoma Metro parking lot?

As this specific issue is outside the purview of my single member district, I will need to research and speak with residents to better understand their thoughts on this issue. However, from what I have seen thus far, there seems to be a need for redevelopment which will benefit the community if it does not contribute to further congestion in the area. As the parking lot is in such proximity to Takoma Metro Station and several retail spots extensive input by DDOT will be needed to ensure the traffic patterns in this area are changed to ensure safety for all residents who traverse through the area. One proposed option is additional housing units. If this option is approved, I would hope it would include a combination of both affordable and low-income housing so that residents of all income brackets can have access to this housing. Most people feel that affordable housing is low income housing at that is not the case. Affordable housing would not allow seniors and the disabled who live off SSI/SSDI or a pension to rent those units and still have funds for other necessities such as food, medical prescriptions or home health services to allow them to age-in-place. Another option I have heard about is to develop a community garden and/or some community space. Our ANC is grossly lacking community space for meetings/events, etc. Since we have lost the use of the Takoma Theatre for this purpose, redevelopment of the parking lot should include some space for this use.

What will you do as commissioner to address crime and public safety concerns in your community? What is your opinion of the NEAR Act, and how will you engage with it as a commissioner?

Crime/safety is one of the most important issues facing ANC 4B and my single member district, 4B06. While I welcome all the efforts that MPD has and continues to do to ensure the safety of our residents, I also think our ANC needs to focus more on alternative police efforts and ensure that all aspects of the NEAR Act are implemented. This legislation provides for additional community-based resources which can assist our residents in receiving the supports and services they need to abstain from criminal activity. I have received community safety training from MPD and share that information with residents on a consistent basis as the block captain for my neighborhood. I encourage all neighborhoods to have a block captain to assist in disseminating information regarding community concerns. As a Commissioner I will continue to strengthen this program and ensure every block in my single member district has a block captain. I am also a strong advocate for the adoption of a block program which allows residents to adopt two blocks in their community to assist in keeping it clean. I have adopted two blocks in my immediate neighborhood and want to ensure each block has one or more residents who are willing to adopt their block to keep it clean. I will also continue to schedule community clean-ups on a monthly basis, weather permitting, to ensure my single member district remains clean.

I will also advocate for more signage regarding picking up litter and animal waste and obtaining more trash cans through the community.

Our neighborhood has experienced increased traffic and less available residential street parking as new developments have come to the area. How will you address these issues as a commissioner?

I am extremely concerned about the increased traffic in our community. It is causing a myriad of problems the most egregious of which is traffic accidents which happen almost on a weekly basis. While the majority of residents in this single member district have the ability for off street parking, many do not use them, in lieu of parking on the street. This results in parked cars being hit by speeding cars, especially along Third Street NW. I will continue to work with the community to petition DDOT to conduct a comprehensive study on this area to determine what traffic calming measures can be implemented.

Parts of the neighborhood are within a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?

Single member district 4B06 is not within a currently established historic district. I do believe we need to ensure the protections of our historic district while still allowing for the advancement of our infrastructure, especially as it relates to additional housing options.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

I do not believe removing on-street parking for our residents is the solution. I would rather have DDOT study the area to determine which streets in the community can sustain all possible modes of transportation. As this single member district has a high concentration of seniors and disabled residents, removing on-street parking could severely limit their ability to traverse the community independently and force them out of the community to a more accessible location, which is what I do not want.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

I would love to see additional lanes along Blair Road, Kennedy Street (I wish it had been including in the recent streetscape project) and along the 3rd Street corridor. I think the top priority for this single member district regarding Vision Zero is speeding. This community needs a comprehensive DDOT safety study ensure whatever speed calming measures are available are put into place. We also need to ensure all street within the single member district are ADA accessible. I want to work with the community to identify any areas within the single member

district which do not comply with the ADA to ensure they are added to a priority list of modifications which are needed immediately.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

The ANC should aggressively support housing affordability and additionally ensuring that our senior and disabled residents can afford to age-in-place. I am a big proponent of mixed use developments which allow for housing growth but also economic growth within the community.

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

Currently one the major issue within the single member district is the Metropolitan Branch Trail. I continue to support a review of the trail to ensure it is building with the communities concerns addressed. Another concern is with the VIP Room, a small business in the 3rd street business corridor. Over the past several years the ANC, Manor Park Citizens Association and I, individually, have met with residents of the community who are concerned regarding the parking and noise issues surrounding this establishment in addition to their request to receive a tavern license. While I support small businesses and want them to succeed, I also expect them to ensure the concerns of the community are addressed and ameliorated. I look forward to working with the community and the owners of the VIP room to mediate a solution to make all parties happy.

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

I have been advocating for this community in multiple roles for over a decade. I have a documented curriculum vitae of community engagement in the Ward 4 Democrats, Kennedy Street Development Association, now known as the Kennedy Street Development Corporation and the Manor Park Citizens Association to name a few. I also am the sole owner of Johnson Consulting Services which offers traveling notary services and advocacy for the resident of Ward 4. I have lived in this community my entire life, 38 years and counting. I know every street, I know the issues that have been resolved and the issues still remaining. I know the agencies and processes needed to ensure constituent concerns are addressed timely and what I don't know, I can learn fast. My ultimate goal is to continue doing what I have always done, listen to the community and advocate for their best interests. I will be transparent in my endeavors and all available mediums to ensure the residents of my single member district are kept up to breast of my actions and what is going on in the community. In two years, I would like to develop a single member website and monthly newsletter. I would also like to publish a comprehensive resource guide for residents to utilize when they have concerns that they may wish to address on their own vs. seeking assistance from their Commissioner.

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

I think a good example of this would be the issues surrounding the Metropolitan Branch Trail. While I was not intimately involved in all aspects of the discussion I do know from talking to residents and attending community meetings that it was a divisive issue with many concerned about additional traffic congestion. When there are concerns which are hyper focused within the single member district I am determined to listen to all concerns and determine how best to mediate the situation so that the outcome is beneficial for all.

Name: Lauren Rogers

ANC and Single Member District: 5C02

The status of the controversial redevelopment of Brookland Manor is uncertain. What is your position on the RIA development and how would you engage with the project's future?

Redevelopment is a painful process,. I believe its important for all of the commissioners in 5C to stand together with the remaining residents to insure that every promise that has been made has been kept, and that the development delivers what has been sold to the community.

What is your vision for economic development in your neighborhood, and how would you support that as a commissioner?

Id like to see more businesses that actually serve the residents. Id like to see an increased presence of family friendly recreation opportunities. Id like Bladensburg road to be more of an entrance to the city., and Id like the residents to feel that were making the neighborhood more neighborly. I think that development is headed our way.we can let it roll over us, or we can use the processes in place to shape a more user-friendly enhanced environment that will be a benefit to us all.

What is your stance on the proposal to use eminent domain to remove the trash collection facility on W Street?

The words "Eminent domain" always give me a chill. As a union member, Im always more in favor of negotiating to a resolution But im also aware that sometimes you negotiate to a standoff, and then either party has the right to move on to the remedies that the law allows.

What are your hopes and/or concerns with the ongoing development at Union Market? How can we better support our neighborhood's connectivity to that area?

Id like to see the growth continue, but I dont want to see long term vendors and merchants displaced. If we end up with a great restaurant/ nightlife area with lots of parking, interesting boutiques, and shops, and great events. I will think weve done well. I would like to see a jitney/ metro shuttle added to the mix.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

Im not in favor of removing street parking. I am in favor of redesigning streets to move bikes closer to the curb, as theyve done on M st NW. I'd like to look at where we could create safer "express" bike routes away from the main streets.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

I'd like to see the unused plots of land, the triangles and empty corners turned into tot lots, or labyrinths, or multi age gyms. We have lots of seniors and children in the neighborhood. If we can connect those two groups, we really can build a great sense of community and share and pass on the history of the area. I would like to see us bring art, public art into the area and more arts experiences,.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

Affordability is an issue all over the city, and in fact it is driving some of the change we're seeing in Woodridge. As some of our neighbors age out of their homes or pass on, sometimes the heirs find themselves forced to sell due to high mortgages or taxes. I believe adding density along the transit routes makes sense, but the charm of Woodridge is rows of bungalows, and we should be concerned to preserve the things that make Woodridge special.

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

Traffic and traffic calming on South Dakota Avenue. Neighbors should not have to come out of their homes to rescue people from burning cars on SD! We need traffic control on South Dakota on Friday nights, and leading up to big travel holidays!

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

I care about my neighborhood and my neighbors. I have learned to be an effective voice for those I represent within my union, I want to expand my ability to serve my community. I was inspired by the example of Sen. Bernie Sanders to get more involved in my community and this is my effort. I am smart, practical, and an effective communicator. I have a wealth of experience to share. I can help. I want to help. I hope you will consider voting for

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

We all have to come together to create the community we desire. In union negotiations, we say "if no one leaves the table happy, then it was a good negotiation" you can't always get what you want, and there has to be an adult in the room to point that out. I can do that without

Name: Nathaniel Russ, Jr.

ANC and Single Member District: 5 E01

What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the McMillan Sand Filtration site? What are your priorities and goals when it comes to balancing new development and green space in our ANC?

My primary concern with the site is actually related to the job opportunities which the new development will provide. And the concern isn't with the opportunities themselves, but whether or not DC residents, particularly young people in the city and in our neighborhoods, will have or be given the education, skills, and experience to take advantage of and be competitive for the new jobs created. We can't afford to look at statistics like this in silos, in this case just the number of jobs that will be created, because all of the issues affecting our community intersect and affect each other. So as we look to this new development, I hope we also work with local schools and local education agencies, as well as any other resources and services for learners of all ages, to coordinate intentional and relevant career paths. Regarding balancing new development and green space in our ANC, my main goal is to ensure that the process for moving forward on either is equitable and youth-informed, especially because while new development and green spaces are investments that all our ANC could benefit from, our youngest will benefit from them the longest, and so their perspective is just as needed and valuable as older residents that have been here for most of their life.

What is your opinion of the Rhode Island Shopping Center (Forman Mills) redevelopment?

When I think of what successful redevelopment is that includes housing, it is not just a matter of how much housing, but who that housing is for. And especially when there is an affordable housing crisis as well as a somewhat related homelessness one, I believe success for the redevelopment cannot simply depend on it being finished, opened and full. I believe that it needs to be for the people in the surrounding neighborhoods as much if not more than the people without. Similar to my point earlier, how is that part of a larger set of pathways for individual success. And even though there is an affordable housing requirement, that is a minimum and not a maximum. I would hope that as the redevelopment comes online, the developer considers and tracks where new residents and customers are coming from. As a DC native myself, I think being intentional about the balance of existing residents from the area and the District in general and newer additions to our city is important, although I couldn't say that I know exactly what the balance is. But this could be the critical difference between the redevelopment contributing to the sustainability of the existing communities, allowing new members to become a part of it, or contributing to the gentrification of communities in the area, and new residents and customers pushing them out.

With our neighborhoods becoming more popular, how can we promote quality development that allows more people to move to the neighborhood without pushing longtime residents out? How do we get more quality retail and services to our neighborhood?

I believe we get more quality retail and services to our neighborhood but empowering local residents to establish businesses and nonprofits that provide the retail and services we want and need. Representation matters, and if we are getting more businesses and providers from without our neighborhood than within, unless they have a vested interest in transitioning to a majority local staffed and run organization, then the local income and funds of residents that will be spent and donated will not stay local profits. But majority local organizations can provide that anchor of continued and sustained reinvestment in the community, while attracting people to move to the neighborhood because of what will be retail and services that are also OF the neighborhood.

What are your ideas and priorities on pedestrian, bike and traffic safety in ANC 5E, particularly with regard to problem intersections (along New York and Rhode Island Avenues) and cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets (such as First Street NW or Franklin Street NE)?

Pedestrian-first design informs any current or future ideas I would have regarding problem intersections and cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets. Improvements like bulb-outs are ideas that I would certainly support, and any others that increase visibility of pedestrians and crosswalks. But beyond good design with infrastructure, I think I would endeavor to work and coordinate with neighboring ANCs so to better affect the behavior of drivers through our ANC, I believe we need to also understand the infrastructure that affects they're driving behavior before and after they drive through ANC5E01, and coordinate our efforts with those ANCs.

What is your stance on the recently approved Bloomingdale Historic District?

My stance is one of frustration because it is a clear example of when the systems that are in place disenfranchise the people affected by them. But beyond that, my belief is that the idea of a Historic District itself and the method in which they are decided makes me question whose history, whose identity, and which communities are they preserving. I also question whether the designation is artificially presented as one meant to protect a neighborhood against aggressive development and gentrification, when it in fact can be the very thing that fuels it. But since we can't turn back time, I think it warrants a thorough look at the current process in which Historic Districts are considered and selected, and then a relentless campaign to change it so this kind of thing doesn't happen to other neighborhoods and communities.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

I would absolutely give priority to bus transit and bike infrastructure. Roads and vehicles are most valuable when they serve their primary function, that of moving people in between places. There is also an increasing trend with a decrease of personal vehicle ownership. Also, if less on street parking encouraged more people to use fewer personal vehicles, then we're doing some good for the environment, as well. I should note that in responding to this question, I am not including residential parking in any of this.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

In addition to getting behind existing efforts, I would also continue to support the efforts regarding a bridge at Hamlin Street between 8th and 10th streets, as identified in DDOT's 2015 Brookland Edgewood Livability Study. My top priority be 8th Street, from Kearney to Franklin and getting all drivers to slow down and stop at each stop sign.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

I think one role our ANC could play would be an increasingly fiscal one, particularly regarding challenges that might be more temporary than long term, such as when unexpected expenses and emergencies occur. In terms of a fiscal role, I'm specifically thinking about a micro-lending program, that could help individuals and families get through a tough time. And it could be something that residents with more disposable income could contribute to. But I think the bigger question would be knowing exactly what the past and current affordability challenges are for our ANC. Being able to see exactly how much housing affordability challenges are either increasing rent, lack of employment opportunities with a living wage, or any of the things we don't know, would help us be more proactive about the strategies we take. And that kind of data would help us have more informed discussions with the community to see what other solutions we might be able to come up with together. As far as the fair share of the housing our growing city needs, my concern isn't that my neighborhood contributes our fair share of housing, I am worried that we contribute MORE than our fair share of it, and would want to make sure developers aren't taking advantage of lower development costs and less restrictive zoning at the expense of our residents.

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

I believe the biggest controversy in my neighborhood may be the college students who live in rentals off-campus. There's at least a perception that some rents are inflated because you have

many young people who aren't paying their own rent, but rather their parents. My position is undecided because I honestly don't know if those landlords are charging those rents because they need to or simply because they can. And I'm sure the truth is probably somewhere in between to varying degrees, for many of them. What I would like to see is a candid conversation about how landlords can do what they need and/or want to with rent while being aware of how those decisions may or may not affect the individuals and families who call Edgewood home.

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

I don't necessarily think I'm the best person (mostly because I don't know much about anyone else running). But I believe I'm a good one. I've made Edgewood my home since the Brookland Artspace Lofts opened in 2011. I have served on the board of Dance Place for several years, an organization which has a history of becoming a community anchor over the several decades that it's been in this neighborhood. When I moved out of the Lofts, I wanted to stay in the neighborhood and moved into a house literally around the corner from it just a little over a year ago. My vision for ANC 5E01 in 2 years, is a neighborhood where long time residents, recent additions to the neighborhood, and everyone in between feels a sense of community identity, which is connected and diverse. I see an ANC where the neighborhood youth feel supported and valued as contributing members, rather than perceived as kids acting out all over the place when they're not in school. I envision a neighborhood bursting with culture and creativity, and not just in the existing artistic anchors up and down 8th street. Finally, I see an ANC that is a model of development done right, that sees the existing community as a resource not just to tap into, but to sustain as well, as vital to any development's success.

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

I would lead using many of the advocacy skills and community organizing tools I've observed and picked up at DCAYA. One particular example was with the closing of DC General and the rampant NIMBYISM. But I believe that if something is good for those that have the least, it is something that is good for all of us. And I mention that as a critical aspect of my own leadership style and values, that it is as important if not more so to see whose voices are missing from the proverbial table, and to reduce the barriers to getting those people in the room. Because the more perspectives and experiences that are shared, the better we can work for our immediate constituents and with our neighbors.

Name: Nina Miller

ANC and Single Member District: 2B09

Much of the neighborhood is part of a historic district. How would you balance the needs of historic preservation with the needs and rights of people who want to live here?

I think it is important to push back against the idea that historic preservation is at odds with the needs and rights of people living in an historic district. People who live in old homes face a greater level of risk of structural damage from ill-planned and poorly executed construction projects on nearby properties; its in their interest for these projects to face a greater level of scrutiny. The historic character of our neighborhood attracts new residents and visitors to local businesses. I think we can point to many examples of property renovations and improvements that have met owners' needs and rights and made a positive contribution to our neighborhood overall, and this is what we should strive for.

Zoning and permitting are essential tools for enabling smart proposals respect a neighborhood's character and the rights and needs of its residents, and for ameliorating or blocking unwise projects that would be detrimental to community members. ANC 2B commissioners can and already do play a vital role in bringing transparency and facilitating community input to these processes. My priorities as a commissioner would be (1) to ensure ANC 2B09 residents could easily find information about proposals as well as the junctures at which they could ask questions and contribute their responses and suggestions, and (2) to listen to and understand the full range of concerns and opinions expressed by residents.

What is your vision for the Connecticut Avenue deckover project?

I think it is a fantastic (and rare) opportunity to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by increasing its usable space. There are positives to each of the proposals; my personal priority is improving walkability and creating an attractive place for residents and visitors.

What are your hopes and/or concerns when it comes to dockless bikes and scooters? There is a proposal to ban cycling and scooter riding on sidewalks in Ward 2, what is your position?

Walkability is an enormous contributor to the attractiveness of and quality of life in our neighborhood. Figuring out the best way to share our space is very complex given the geography of our streets and sidewalks and increasing density and use.

For me, safety is the paramount consideration. Our sidewalks have to be safe for pedestrians. However, it is also clearly the case that some roads are not safe for bike riders and of course scooters. I cannot support an absolute ban on sidewalk riding because in some circumstances it would force people to risk life and limb riding on the street.

I do think we can do more to keep sidewalks clear for walkers, scooters, and where necessary bike riders, and I strongly support articulating a stricter code of conduct for vehicular sidewalk

use. I think peer-to-peer education (and peer pressure) within the bike-riding community is the best way to establish and reinforce norms about safe conduct.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

This is one of our most complicated and controversial issues. I think there are good cases to be made for restricting on-street parking on major arteries in favor of bus lanes or improving traffic flow for buses (for example, on 16th Street).

With regard to bike riders, my main concern is vehicle separation and safety. More people are riding bikes and we have to work together to prevent more fatalities and injuries. I think every proposal for expanding bike infrastructure has to be examined very carefully on a case-by-case basis. There's a tendency to see "more" as an absolute good, but, for example, community members (who are themselves bike riders) have raised serious concerns that the proposed bike docking at the intersection of Mass and 18th may be positioned in such a way that using it would place people at significant risk of harm from contiguous traffic.

We also have to respect the need for residential parking. Residents should be able to park at or near where they live. This is not simply a matter of convenience; for people with (for example) health challenges, vehicle proximity is vitally important. On a personal note, my household hasn't kept a car for the last 10 years – walking, mass transit, and occasional car services have been more than adequate for our needs. But this has only been possible for us because we've been lucky enough to work near where we live, we don't have mobility challenges, and we don't need to haul children or large objects to and fro.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

First and foremost we need solutions for the intersections where people have been killed or injured, and these solutions need to be carefully considered on a case-by-case basis. It is currently too difficult and dangerous to commute by bike or ride with children.

I think one solution that has not received enough attention thus far is creating more viable off-street parking to reduce competition for on-street spots. I believe we should also take a hard line with development proposals for large residential structures that don't include (a) more than minimally adequate parking for the building's residents and (b) new parking availability for community use.

For example, I believe we currently have the opportunity to push for a better ratio of parking spots to housing units for the proposed development on the Masonic Temple lot.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

The ANC can play a role by (1) helping to protecting current affordable housing, including helping very long-term residents keep their homes, and (2) influencing new residential development projects to have larger shares of affordable housing units (with careful attention paid to what is deemed “affordable”). The ANC can do so both by raising community awareness and facilitating public input to specific development proposals as well as by working “upstream” at the regulatory and policy levels.

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

I think the biggest controversy within our ANC has been finding the right balance between creating a forum where the community’s diverse opinions are welcomed and heard, and functioning in an efficient and effective manner. I hope to be a moderating influence that supports transparency and community participation.

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What’s your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

First, I am strongly committed to maintaining the vitality and character of our neighborhood. Second, I have a great deal of experience in forming and working with groups of people who have diverse and sometimes conflicting vested interests to resolve a problem or achieve a goal. I would take an inclusive, diplomatic, and collaborative approach to representing 2B09.

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

To a certain extent, this dynamic is baked into the ANC’s structure and process. For policies or proposals that affect the community, it is incumbent on Commissioners to take impact on the community into consideration. In such cases Commissioners should play a proactive role in seeking out community input rather than passively waiting for it to show up. People are within their rights to argue for things that are to their benefit. The role of a Commissioner is to put that argument in a broader context that includes competing or conflicting opinions and proposals.

Name: Aretha Jackson

ANC and Single Member District: 7D05

The 2017 tax bill created Opportunity Zones, which will encourage private investment in selected neighborhoods. For the zones in your area, what are the greatest opportunities and greatest risks that you see?

Some of the greatest opportunities are:

1. The tax break will attract investors
2. It may open doors for new entrepreneurs
3. Attract possible investment capital to expand and/or start-up businesses

Some of the greatest risks are as follows:

1. The tax break may no help existing residents and local businesses
2. It may be a tax cut for gentrification
3. The rise in property taxes & rents
4. May serve as a subsidy for displacing local residents

What will you do to ensure that development and PUD processes are equitable and inclusive?

I will work with existing community leaders and grassroots organizations as well as developers to negotiate the best outcome for all parties.

This year the controversial Kingman Park Historic District was approved. What is your stance on the issue? If presented with a controversial divide in your district, how will you approach the situation? How will you work to ensure that all perspectives are heard?

If I am presented with a controversial divide in my district; first I would listen to all perspectives then work with all parties to create a workable solution.

What is your vision for the future of the RFK Stadium site?

A few months ago I saw an article with renderings of proposals for the RFK Stadium site. My vision would be to keep the outdoor track that is currently in place. Build the indoor/outdoor football stadium large enough for the Superbowl. Bring the indoor/outdoor track and field center for future Olympics. The floating swimming pool located on the river as well as an urban beach. Some shops and food establishments.

I would also like for there to be a walking/running/biking path alongside E Capitol Street Bridge. Bring the Redskins back to the City!

What are your hopes and/or concerns regarding the redevelopment of the Deanwood Metro station area?

Unfortunately, the Benning Rd Station is located in my SMD, therefore I will support the desires of the community.

If there were a way to improve bus transit or bike infrastructure in your neighborhood, but it required removing on-street parking, how would you approach the situation? Give a specific example if possible.

This is a good question. To improve transit or bike infrastructure, my first step would be to conduct a survey of the area to see how many homes and residents would be negatively impacted by the removal of street parking.

I would then survey how many resident drives versus how many use public transportation. Finally, I would request feedback from the community. After gathering as much input as I can, I would then provide the residents with the benefits of improved bus transit and bike infrastructure in the neighborhood.

Where would you like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks, or other infrastructure to make it safer for residents, families, and seniors to walk and bike? What are the top Vision Zero priorities for your community?

I would like to see new bicycle lanes, sidewalks on E Capitol Street. The Top Vision Zero priorities are Minnesota Ave in downtown Ward 7.

What role do you think your ANC could play in addressing housing affordability challenges? How can your neighborhood contribute its fair share of the housing our growing city needs?

Because I have served as the president of an affordable housing community for the past 3 years. I know that I can contribute to this area. However, I do not wish to see the entire Ward 7 flooded with low-income housing.

At this time my SMD alone contributes over 300 affordable housing.

What is the biggest controversy in your neighborhood not already listed on this questionnaire, and what is your position on it?

The biggest controversy in my neighborhood is the lack of grocery stores and restaurants. My position on this is to teach the local resident how to own grocery stores and restaurants. Promote entrepreneurship.

Why do you think you are the best person to represent your SMD? What's your vision for your ANC in 2 years?

After serving in the Fort Chaplin Park Apartments community and successfully negotiating on the behalf of the residents, I think this gives me what it takes to be the best person for the SMD.

My Vision for 7D05 over the next 2 years is to negotiate on behalf of the current homeowners. I would pursue tax breaks for seniors living in houses that are paid to keep their taxes from increasing as the local property taxes increases.

I also plan to advocate for young people between the ages of 14 to 26. The goal is to incorporate young adult meet up groups as an option to hanging out in front of apartments and houses. These meet-ups will host cooking classes etiquette classes and job readiness.

Sometimes community members advocate for a position that is in their narrow interest, but is counter to broader city-wide interests and is highly problematic position if all communities across DC were to act that way. How will you lead in such a situation? Give a local example if possible.

The only example I can think of is Vince Grays agenda. He has held multiple conferences to bring the Ward on one accord. His agenda is a cry for the communities East of the River however if successful a community hospital will benefit everyone in the city.