



CLEVELAND PARK
SMART GROWTH

2022 ANC Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Tammy Gordon (<https://tammygordon.com/>) SMD: ANC 3C06

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

I want to do all I can to make the Cleveland Park Main Street corridor filled with vibrant businesses and safe streets. A Cleveland Park filled with good restaurants, a great coffee shop, and thriving small businesses is my North Star – plus, getting The Uptown back open and showing movies! Along the way, I'd like to see protected bike lanes, safer crosswalks and a service lane that can fluidly allow for multiple uses.

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 each viable proposal has to be reviewed on its individual merits. It seems that there has been a lot of zero growth vs massive growth posturing going on.

The right approach lies somewhere in the middle. Residential growth and evolution are important, and so is keeping the history and quaint village vibes, which we all love. Leadership lies in navigating all of those for the best version of our neighborhood we can have ahead, given all the options and tools that we have at our disposal.

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

Racial equity is a core value that we have to hold central as we grow our neighborhood. I can't unsee how [housing](#) and [transportation](#) decisions of the past have disproportionately affected our Black neighbors in DC and across this country. There is always more to learn. I'm committed to studying best practices for inclusive and equitable community building. We must strive to do better ahead.

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?

Everything must be looked at individually and balanced. It is absolutely possible to protect the history of our neighborhood, while at the same time making sure that we allow for progress, innovation and evolution. Most of us bought or rented in Cleveland Park because we love the

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quaint village in the city vibes. I know I did. But we used to be able to have both. I remember when Cleveland Park was a destination. Palena on every hot restaurant list. The Uptown showing premieres. Fun bars for cocktails, wine and pubs.

But that is not where we are today. And, historic buildings that are empty, can't retain business and are falling apart don't lead to our neighborhood being a vibrant community to live, work and play. Chains behind the only businesses that can sustain the absurd rent and construction costs to get up to code. We must find balance in our decision-making.

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 committed to the protected bike lane. I biked all over during 2020 and my mind was opened to how easy it is to get around with so many different types of transports besides my car. But now that speeding traffic is back on Connecticut Avenue, it's too scary to bike. And as a driver, I know I'd feel safer having bikes in a clear lane, rather than fighting for the same space as a car on the road. That's the thing – protected bike lanes make all of us safer, not just bikers. We've also got to hold DDOT to parking solutions that works for those who need close in parking options, such as seniors or disabled neighbors.

I'm excited for what's ahead on the Service Lane (after the painful construction part.) Having the opportunity to be flexible and decide when to have parking and when to use that as patio/event space is going to make it so much more fun to hang out there. And the landscaping upgrade will make the entry to our businesses have so much more curb appeal

We will all be glad when the construction is complete. I'll keep you all updated on the progress – and tag you in when we need you to raise your voices to the Mayor and Council. Just sign up for updates on my website.

(I'd also love to fight for a turn light at Ordway. Anyone who has had to make that turn knows how dangerous it is.)

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

I've spent my professional life learning about policy. From the decade I worked at AARP – on issues like healthcare, financial security and building livable communities for all generations – to now where I work on global public health crisis communications planning and strategy. I've also spent much of my twenty years in DC (and the ten that I've owned in Cleveland Park,) working with restauranteurs and hospitality professionals. Many have been clients, friends and features on my blog and [podcast](#). They tell me why they don't consider Cleveland Park for locations. I think we can turn this around. I hope to bring balance to the ANC that can work with local

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government, organizations and business owners to bring back a thriving Cleveland Park Main Street that works for all neighbors.

I'm a communicator and a community builder. I hope you'll give me a chance to represent you on the ANC if you live in the 3C06 district. You can learn more and contact me on my website: tammygordon.com Thank you.

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