



CLEVELAND PARK
SMART GROWTH

2022 ANC Candidate Questionnaire

Name: Nicholas (Nick) Ide, NickForANC@gmail.com **SMD:** ANC 3C05

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

I am running with the sole agenda of representing the residents of the neighborhood and seeking balanced solutions. I will listen, ask questions, and build practical consensus. I do not come to this role with any pre-conceived agenda. Rather, I come with an open mind to address the problems that need to be solved. That said, there are some issues that I anticipate will arise, including:

- Making Connecticut avenue safer for bikes and other non-vehicular traffic. I am concerned, along with others, that a more incremental or piloted approach is needed to prevent adverse consequences. Such consequences include undermining pedestrian safety and the success of our business district. Another concern is additional speeding traffic on cross streets.
- Finding a balanced approach to necessary development while maintaining the character of our historic district and attending to critical infrastructure.
- Promoting the success of our business district.
- Supporting the city-wide priority of more affordable housing.

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?

My priority will be balancing the need for additional housing near public transportation and the need for a thriving business district with the reality of existing infrastructure and the potential impact on our community and its residents. It takes a holistic approach, and we want to preserve the character and charm of Cleveland Park and not replace it with urban canyons. We have a lot of amenities, including good schools, that make Ward 3 an attractive place to live.

D.C, along with other prosperous cities, has a significant shortage of affordable housing. Unfortunately, redevelopment as currently structured is not effectively solving this problem. In many cases, affordable rent-controlled units are being replaced by market-rate units targeted to individuals rather than families, and a small percentage devoted to lower income families. This goes beyond the ANC, but I would favor policies that are more effective at addressing these issues than the current policies.

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

As a neighborhood that once had racial covenants on some houses, Cleveland Park has a special responsibility to promote racial equity. That means increasing access to housing that is truly affordable. It means making sure that neighborhood businesses can stay in business and pay their workers the wages they deserve and need to live near where they work. It means supporting good public schools and essential services like childcare, after school care, and public transit.

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?

With a balanced approach. To thrive, our community requires growth and change, but it needs to be done sensibly and in the context of the neighborhood. Historic preservation is important for maintaining the character of the neighborhood. An excellent example is John Eaton Elementary School, which was recently modernized and expanded while respecting its historic buildings. New growth and higher density buildings need to be designed in a balanced way to maintain our historic district while taking into consideration critical infrastructure such as roads, transportation, schools, sewer, and drainage.

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?

This is not a “yes” or “no” question. Indeed, we need to better accommodate bicycles (and other non-automobile forms of transport) now sharing our roads. However, we need to find a way forward that balances the needs of all road users: pedestrians, bikers, and drivers.

As currently configured, Concept C gives rise to numerous concerns. The impact on businesses of dramatically reduced parking spots will be severe. The impact on the side streets of increased traffic due to the congestion on Connecticut Avenue will be dangerous. The safety of bus riders and pedestrians crossing bike lanes must be more carefully considered.

I believe it is important to make the conversations with DDOT and other stakeholders more inclusive of the views of our residents. I would seek to expand the conversations with DDOT and other stakeholders – to consider other options – and encourage testing of concepts via pilot projects that allow for course correction as needed.

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

I am running with the sole agenda of representing the residents of the neighborhood and seeking balanced solutions. I will listen, ask questions, and build practical consensus.

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I bring a set of skills that will be useful. I am a problem solver. I have spent my career developing software systems to solve complex problems. The key to such work is listening, asking questions, and building practical consensus. In my non work hours, I've spent the last ten years helping neighbors with various water problems on Macomb Street. This work involved persistently working with DC Water, DDOT, and others to address problems with jurisdictional ambiguity. The pipes under our streets that carry sewage and storm water were laid 100 years ago and are crumbling. This invisible infrastructure is critical and, when it fails, the results for neighbors can be quite devastating. In general, I dig into problems with curiosity, creativity, and perseverance.