



CLEVELAND PARK  
SMART GROWTH

**2022 ANC Candidate Questionnaire**

Name: Sauleh Siddiqui      SMD: 3C05

Website: [www.saulehanc.com](http://www.saulehanc.com)

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

The main issues I hope to address are around housing, safer streets, and government accountability. My priorities for next year include:

- Facilitating conversations among our community through the [Connecticut Avenue Development Guidelines](#) process. This is an opportunity for us to have conversations about what we want the future of our neighborhood to be. Last year, I wrote and passed 9 resolutions regarding historic preservation, more than anyone else on ANC 3C. I also voted to allow more apartment buildings in our business district.
- Guiding us through the design process for the [Connecticut Avenue NW Reversible Lane Safety and Operations Study](#). I wrote the [resolution](#) that supported Concept C last year with a 7-1-1 majority, and many of our recommendations have already been implemented, including removing the reversible lanes and reducing the speed limit on Connecticut Ave NW. The design process is the most important one, where we get to decide where parking/loading is placed as well as design elements for the bus stops and bicycle lanes. I recently authored another [resolution](#) that captured the community's input.
- I want to hold government agencies accountable for what they owe us as a community. This includes [continuing to advocate](#) for the post-construction issues at Hearst Park and Pool, which primarily include the Willow Oak trees that have been damaged. It also includes advocating for government support and services for all our neighbors to ensure they can live their lives with dignity, especially those experiencing homelessness, food insecurity, and mental health disorders.

**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 priorities will be maximizing housing in our neighborhood. The Zillow home value index in our neighborhood at the time I filled out this questionnaire is \$992,869, which means that a

typical home sells for a million dollars in our neighborhood. This value has risen 4.4% in the last year, and the trend does not seem to be stopping. Zoning laws have restricted housing, making our neighborhood exclusive to only the wealthy. We need a multi-pronged approach to tackle the housing crisis in our neighborhood, but rezoning to increase density must absolutely be part of it.

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

From a presentation Brian McCabe, now Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development in the Office of Policy Development and Research in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), gave about our neighborhood earlier this year, Cleveland Park is 74% white and less than 5% African American. Given that Washington DC in the 2020 Census was 38% White (alone) and 41% Black or African American (alone), our neighborhood has been segregated through decisions we have made about our community. This includes a lack of housing and affordable housing. In my approach as an ANC commissioner, I not only believe in racial equity, but racial justice, which means actively working to undo the harms of racism of the past and present. This includes creating more housing and welcoming more people to our neighborhood; these demographics will not change otherwise. It also includes thoughtfully engaging in other issues that make our neighborhood friendlier to everyone, including policing, safety, and community services.

**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 have written and passed 9 resolutions on Historic Preservation, so I know this process well. I love the cozy feel of our neighborhood and appreciate how the historic district designation has helped give our neighborhood a unique aesthetic. I approach historic preservation from an aesthetic perspective, and don't believe it should go beyond that. For example, I believe Historic Preservation should have nothing to do with building height; some of the most iconic historic buildings in our neighborhood, such as the Broadmoor and the Kennedy-Warren, are also among the tallest. We also should not let historic preservation get in the way of our more important goals in the neighborhood, which includes the success of our businesses. For example, Medium Rare is currently going through an extensive historic preservation process just to install a pergola. Our ANC received over 50 emails in favor of this and 2 emails against the design, yet the Historic Preservation process meant that neighborhood opinion didn't matter at all. We as a neighborhood have not had a conversation about design guidelines for the neighborhood, so the process has been applied arbitrarily and has also been weaponized. I will thus ensure that Historic Preservation maintains the aesthetic of our neighborhood but isn't used to stop our neighborhood from thriving.

**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 wrote the resolution in support of Concept C, and the subsequent two resolutions that reiterated support. My priorities for reconfiguration will be pedestrian and bicyclist safety and maximizing ease of transit and bicycling while minimizing the number of cars that drive through our neighborhood. I will also prioritize short-term parking as well as loading zones for our business district so that we can provide appropriate parking where needed.

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

I started my term with a lot of personal energy and I now have the experience to complement it. I've passed 22 Resolutions, more than twice as many as any other commissioner in ANC 3C, on topics ranging from Transportation, Historic Preservation, Supporting Businesses, and Government Accountability. I've served as Treasurer for ANC 3C and have facilitated grants for Ward 3 Mutual Aid and Ward 3 Food Pantry. I also started the Safe, Sustainable, and Equitable Transportation Committee, which has led to localized benefits speed humps on Rodman St. NW and Cortland Pl. NW, but also helped us advocate for larger issues such as advocating for more bus service and safety improvements on Connecticut Avenue. I'm also proud to have included members of the community on this committee, and hope we can do this with other committees going forward.

I still have the zeal and commitment to keep going and working for our community. I also have the experience in connecting the community to DC government agencies and have delivered results that the community has asked for. I hope to continue to earn your support and continue to engage all of you. Please visit my website [www.saulehanc.com](http://www.saulehanc.com) to learn more and feel free to reach out to me at [saulehforanc@gmail.com](mailto:saulehforanc@gmail.com)