

**Community Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 3, 2020**  
**American University – East Campus – Constitution Hall (Rooms 1-2)**  
**7 p.m.**

**Introductions & Opening Remarks**

The meeting of the Community Liaison Committee (CLC) was opened by Don Edwards, from Justice and Sustainability Associates, at 7 p.m. Chief of Staff and Counselor to the President, Seth Grossman, who convenes and leads the meetings for American University, welcomed representatives of neighborhood organizations and local Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs).

Attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

**Standing Reports**

*Student Conduct Off Campus since December 2019; Office Campus Conduct Presentation*

Jeff Brown, AU Dean of Students, provided information on the Student Code of Conduct as relevant to off-campus student conduct from December 9, 2019 to March 2, 2020. The university received a total of eight (8) complaints. The locations included six (6) single-family homes and two (2) from apartment and condominium residences. Follow up has been made on the four (4) reports that were actionable. This presentation can be found at: <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/clc-presentation-30-03-20.pdf>

Chuck Elkins, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if one report came from a neighbor complaining about marijuana smoke.

Jeff Brown responded that the incident occurred in Wesley Heights and that there were no identified student names.

Chuck wanted to follow up, noting that this was not a one-time event and expressing concern about neighbors' complaint that the smoke was infringing on their property.

Jeff noted this response.

*Construction Projects Update*

David Dower, AU Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management updated the CLC on progress at the Hall of Science and research lab and provided information about 3244 Nebraska Avenue. This presentation can be found at: <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/clc-presentation-30-03-20.pdf>

Matt Bennett, AU Vice President and Chief Communications Officer, asked what the cross streets are for the property.

David replied that the cross streets are at Nebraska Ave and Fox Hall.

Dennis Paul, of Neighbors for a Livable Community, asked about letting the President know if there is danger on the property.

David asked in reply if his question was in reference to a plane crash a while ago near the residence.

### *Community Relations Update*

Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations, shared information about recent outreach and community work by American University. This presentation can be found at:  
<https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/clc-presentation-30-03-20.pdf>

Shelly Repp, of the Tenleytown Neighborhood Association, asked where AU is planning on moving the Spring Valley bus stop.

Maria responded that she has been working with Phil and Dan on potentially updating that information, noting that there have been some challenges on the routing path.

Jeff Kraskin, of the Spring Valley Wesley Heights Citizens Association, asked if the Planning 101 Session is in lieu of a global neighborhood meeting regarding the 2021 Campus Plan.

Maria responded that the Planning 101 Sessions are a separate ongoing meeting series which bring the campus and neighborhood together.

Jeff Kraskin expressed concern that the 6 p.m. start time can be challenging and prevents him from attending.

Maria replied that for future meetings AU may look at a 6:30 p.m. start time.

Dennis William, of Tenleytown Neighborhood Association, followed up from the last CLC meeting on questions about AU relations with The Frequency Apartments in the context of the mayor's affordable housing initiative. He expressed concern that AU's contracts with the building takes units off the housing market.

Ed Fisher, Assistant Vice President of Government and Community Relations, replied that The Frequency is not considered affordable housing. He stated further that one of the goals of the 2021 Campus Plan is getting 500 - 600 students back on campus, but not specifically with units classified as affordable.

Dennis William reiterated that the contract still results in housing that is taken off the market.

Ed replied that looking at the campus plan framework will highlight AU's housing piece.

Jonathan McHugh, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E, asked if this CLC group is splitting the difference between students and residents of the city. He stated that, while students may be temporary residents, they still have to be housed.

Dennis William replied that he was referring to the draft Campus Plan which encourages the provision of on-campus housing.

Ed followed up that CLC members will see AU's commitment to providing on-campus housing in the framework released.

### **New Business and Neighborhood Issues**

Ed and Matt Bell, of Perkins Eastman, shared information about government relations and the ongoing 2021 Campus Plan process. This presentation can be found at:

<https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/clc-campus-plan-intro-draft-3-3-2020.pdf>

Dennis William asked what the word "framework" means.

Ed replied that the phrase "framework" references the backbone of the plan and touches on most of the issues important to the neighbors' concerns.

Shelly asked if AU's enrollment numbers are holding steady.

Ed replied that AU is proposing an adjustment to the cap based on new buildings being included in this zoning process. He explained that AU now has to count students that were not included before the zoning changes.

Jessica Herzstein, of Spring Valley, asked if the enrollment numbers come from a different way of measuring.

Ed replied that enrollment numbers do result from a different way of measuring.

Don addressed the floor stating that AU has scheduled an additional CLC session, currently scheduled on April 28, to do a deep dive into the 2021 Campus Plan framework. He explained that all questions asked tonight will be captured and answered in the session set aside specific to the campus plan.

Suzanne Smolnik, neighbor, asked that, since AU has declared itself carbon neutral, if the university has any intention of getting electric buses for campus.

Don replied that the comment was noted and captured.

Natalie Ambrose, of Wesley Heights, asked about the research and trends in higher education over the next decade given the rapidly changing environment in education. She also asked about the impacts of what kind of teaching facilities AU needs.

Ed thanked her for her question, and noted the "Future of Higher Education" presentation made by AU Provost Dan Myers will be posted on the Campus Plan website.

Jeff Kraskin asked about the difference in images between A-1 and A-2 in the framework handout.

Ed replied that the images are both of the main campus from different viewing perspectives.

Shelly asked if the “Future of Higher Education” presentation dealt with free college plans.

Ed replied that AU can do research on the topic.

Jerry Gallucci, of Westover Place Homeowners Association, commented that residents in Westover have lived behind these newer AU buildings for the better part of the last decade and they find the experience acceptable. He further noted that, while the previous campus plan process was difficult, his AU Neighborhood Partnership experience has been much smoother. He added that residents understand the reality of living in a city next to a university with its own needs and that Westover appreciates AU’s neighborhood engagement.

Jeff Kraskin commented on Exhibit B, noting that some of the potential drawings and sites do not match exhibit A-1 and A-2, including that the building marked as “4” does not match.

Matt Frumin, of Tenleytown Main Street, asked whether all the various buildings on the map will be built.

Ed replied the map shows potential sites and that AU is only going to build what the university needs.

Dennis William asked for more insight on AU’s needs, expressing the difficulty of knowing how the numbers impact the end result.

Ed replied that the end result is a plan that works for all. He explained that the process is to talk about desired results with neighbors and other stakeholders, then develop an agreement that works with all parties.

Dennis Paul asked which building sites were AU’s priorities.

Ed replied that currently AU has not prioritized any of the buildings. He added that AU does want to bring students back onto campus.

Jessica asked if “bringing students back onto campus” meant mandating students to live on campus.

Ed replied that a mandate is a possibility, but that it is not laid out in the framework now.

Jessica asked if CLC members can get the current breakdown of student housing numbers.

Ed replied that the numbers could be provided.

Chuck commented that discussions within the AU Neighborhood Partnership are still ongoing, and that these discussions do not reflect a consensus in the Partnership at this time.

Dennis Paul asked who will be at the April CLC meeting. He also inquired if architects would be present.

Don replied that Matt Bell of Perkins Eastment will be at the meeting and that AU will provide whatever resources are needed for the relevant questions.

Tim Talley, of Wesley Heights, asked if this draft document will be disseminated in any other way.

Ed replied that this framework will be on the Campus Plan website. He added that anybody is welcome to attend the upcoming special CLC session.

Chuck commented on the April 28 date, stating that this meeting could take a long time. He suggested that some of the questions currently being raised could be answered on paper ahead of time.

Ed replied that AU can look into that option.

### **Good of the Order**

School year events/calendar updates:

Don Edwards thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

**Proposed 2020 CLC Meeting Dates: April 28, 2020; June 9, 2020; September 15, 2020; December 1, 2020**

### **Attendees**

#### *Community:*

Natalie Ambrose, Wesley Heights resident  
William Clarkson, Spring Valley Neighborhood Association  
Chuck Elkins, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
Matt Frumin, Tenleytown Main Street  
Jerry Gallucci, Westover Place Homeowners Association  
Jessica Herzstein, Spring Valley resident  
Jeffery Kraskin, Spring Valley Wesley Heights Citizens Association  
Hunt LaCascia, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Jonathan McHugh, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E  
Troy Kravitz, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community  
Shelly Repp, Tenleytown Neighbors Association  
Douglas Saunders, Westover Place Homeowners Association  
Bob Smolik, neighbor  
P.S. Smolik, neighbor  
Timothy Talley, Wesley Heights resident

John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision  
Betsy White, Wesley Heights resident  
Dennis Williams, Tenleytown Neighbors Association

*American University Staff:*

Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations  
Matthew Bennett, Vice President and Chief Communication Officer  
Stacie Burgess, Director of Public Affairs  
Jeffery Brown, Dean of Students  
David Dower, Assistant Vice President for Planning and Project Management  
Ed Fisher, Assistant Vice President of Community and Government Relations  
Seth Grossman, Chief of Staff to the President  
Tony Long, Executive Director of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Daniel Nichols, Assistant Vice President of Risk, Safety & Transportation Programs  
Sherry Rutherford, AU Campus Plan Consultant, Equity Real Estate

*Other:*

Joshua Babb, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
Matt Bell, Perkins Eastman DC  
Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
Kayla Elson, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
Laura Gramling, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC