

**Community Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, September 5, 2019**  
**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). Ed Fisher, Assistant Vice President of Community and Government Relations, introduced Sherry Rutherford, AU Campus Plan Consultant from Requity Real Estate. Sherry Rutherford introduced herself, shared her background, and expressed her willingness to connect with neighbors.

Attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliations.

**Standing Reports**

*Neighborhood Parking Enforcement Update*

Daniel Nichols, Assistant Vice President of Risk, Safety, and Transportation Programs, presented the annual report on traffic and parking performance. He provided updated on trends for the Good Neighbor parking program, emphasizing a decrease in ticket citations and improved compliance. His presentation can be found on Page 2 at:

<https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/clc-presentation-9-23-19.pdf>

Alan Pollock, of Fort Gaines Citizens Association, asked if any tickets were issued in the Fort Gaines neighborhood. (e.g. Sedgwick St., Upton)

Dan replied that four tickets were issued on Upton St., one ticket on Sedgwick St., and none on Springdale St.

Troy Kravitz, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if AU considered ways to assess cost and benefits to enforcement and then communicate this information.

Dan responded that AU primarily hires student workers for parking enforcement. Furthermore, costs are offset through automated license tracking. He also emphasized the synergy between neighbors and AU of wanting enforcement. He stated that AU would communicate with neighbors about any reduction in the number of enforcement staff.

Chuck Elkins, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked if AU had materials to inform neighborhood residents about students parking on streets and if AU had a call-in number that residents could use. He also suggested that AU and residents work together in this enforcement process.

Dan responded that AU will look into the idea of a postcard. He acknowledged that parking enforcement applies to students, faculty, and staff, and that AU relies on support from neighborhoods for enforcement.

Taylor Berlin, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D, asked about the process for the request and recourse of wrongfully issued tickets.

Dan replied that individuals should provide AU with their license and address information to be put on the “do not ticket” list. He also explained that, even if staff and faculty have a zone 3 permit, they will get a ticket for parking violation around AU campus.

John Wheeler, of Ward 3 Vision, noted that Tenleytown campus does not experience the same level of enforcement. He stated the benefit of the campus’ proximity to a metro station and impact on reduced parking in the area.

Dan responded that the U-Pass from AU and Car2Go have significantly reduced students’ need to drive to campus.

Bruce Klein, of Fort Gaines Citizens Association, asked if AU patrolled neighborhood streets.

Dan answered that AU has a proactive program with an active patrol teams and a reliance on student and faculty to support compliance.

Chuck asked about AU’s progress with Lyft.

Dan replied that AU is working on a contract with Lyft for pre-designated drop-off spots. He noted that AU is hoping for positive effects.

#### *Student Conduct Off Campus since June 2019*

Jeff Brown, Dean of Students, provided information on the Student Code of Conduct as relevant to off-campus student conduct between June 19 and September 23. The university received nine (9) complaints, six (6) of which occurred since the academic year began. He also provided trend data over academic years from 2014 – 2015 to 2018 – 2019, as well as information on the university’s outreach and education to students. This presentation can be found on Pages 3 – 5: <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/clc-presentation-9-23-19.pdf>

Taylor Berlin asked for clarification on “public street activity” incident reports.

Jeff replied that public street activity refers to incidents that occur in public vicinities.

Troy Kravitz asked for the meaning of “number of individual complaints.”

Jeff replied that the number refers to the number of unique people submitting complaints.

Shelly Repp, of Neighbors for Responsible Development, asked for the location of 3333 Wisconsin Ave building.

Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations, responded that the building is near the Cactus Cantina and the Giant grocery store.

Shelly Repp asked how many fraternities are at AU.

Taylor Berlin responded that nine fraternities have houses.

Jeff replied that there are 12 or 13 fraternities total. He added that AU does not have true sanctioned houses by either national or international fraternities. He explained that groups of fraternity members lease rental units from an external party.

Shelly Repp asked if these fraternity houses have caused problems in the past.

Jeff responded that the fraternity houses have sometimes caused issues, but that is not always the case with the single-family home rentals.

Taylor Berlin asked if the report related to the 3333 Wisconsin Ave occurred before or after the meeting that Michelle Espinosa, Associate Dean of Students, and Maria Barry hosted at the building.

Jeff answered that the report was received before the meeting.

Chuck Elkins asked how many students in the reporting period were sanctioned.

Jeff replied that all students went through the AU process, but that he did not have information about any sanctions yet. He noted that two reports happened during the most recent weekend.

Chuck Elkins suggested that AU provide statistics on sanctioning of students.

Don Edwards requested that AU include sanctioning statistics in its reporting at CLC meetings.

Franklyn Duporte, of The Towers, noted that raw data needs to be associated with the complaints to effectively connect sanction types with complaint types.

Jeff responded that AU needs to be mindful of student privacy and must speak in general terms about sanctions.

Jonathan McHugh, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E, asked for the legal basis and justification of AU sanctions.

Jeff replied that the code of conduct applies to all students and details the levels of sanctions.

Dan Nichols added that compliance with the student code of conduct is a condition of attendance at AU.

Taylor Berlin requested to see outcomes data, noting that reporting measures and sanctions are key to prevention of incidents moving forward.

Don Edwards asked AU to share its code of conduct protocols with CLC members.

### *Construction Projects Update*

David Dower, AU Assistant Vice Present for Planning and Project Management updated the CLC on progress at the Hall of Science and various summer projects. This presentation can be found on Pages 6 – 11: <https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/clc-presentation-9-23-19.pdf>

Troy Kravitz asked how the dark room in the Hall of Science works with windows in the room.

David explained that the print room is not finished and will include shades and a curtain.

Bruce Klein asked about the safety and security in Hall of Science, including fire safety, once the building is completed.

David responded that Dan Nichols and Phil Morse, Assistant Vice President of University Police Services and Emergency Management, have developed a robust system. He stated that the common areas of the building will be open to the public. He explained that research labs will only be accessible to credentialed individuals and that teaching labs will be in the building as well. He added that cameras will be installed for monitoring, along with a specialized fire protection and fire detection system.

Chuck Elkins commented that community members would be interested in seeing research labs and suggested AU organize a neighbors' viewing of the laboratories.

David approved of the viewing idea and agreed to schedule a community tour when the facility was ready. He explained that the building is expected to be completed and systems installed by June 2020, with faculty move-in in July, and labs ready for teaching by September.

Dennis Paul, of Neighbors for a Livable Community, asked about AU's plans for the former science buildings.

David responded that the buildings will be vacated and that the strategic planning process has begun, but no discussion on re-purposing has occurred yet.

### *Community Relations Update*

Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations, shared AU outreach and community work including movie night, Explore DC, and Tenleytown Art All Night. She welcomed scheduling

continued meetings with residents, community leaders, and building managers. This presentation can be found on Pages 12 – 14:

<https://www.american.edu/communityrelations/clc/upload/clc-presentation-9-23-19.pdf>

Chuck Elkins shared about a pilot project between ANC 3D and the AU School of Public Affairs through which students participate in a research practicum on identified neighborhood issues. He explained that four students in this pilot are reviewing the issue of second-hand marijuana smoking in high-rise buildings. He added that a hearing on their research is expected in 2020.

### **New Business & Neighborhood Issues – Open Discussion**

#### *AU Master Lease at The Frequency*

Ed Fisher, AVP Community and Government Relations, provided information on AU's new master lease at The Frequency. AU is moving 200 beds from the Berkshire and leasing 154 beds at The Frequency with a hope to increase the number of beds by August 2020.

Shelly Repp asked if AU was using all 154 beds now. He also asked about the experience of people living in The Frequency.

Ed replied that AU is using all of the beds. He explained that The Frequency has benefits of more amenities and community spaces and proximity to a metro station. He stated that there have been no reports or complaints from The Frequency to date.

Shelly Repp asked if students spend more time on campus due to the lease with The Frequency.

Ed responded that he could not speak specifically to that question.

Jonathan McHugh, of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E, asked for the length of the contract.

Ed replied that AU has a two-year lease until 2021.

Chis Silva, Director of Housing, commented that AU is leasing 100 apartments units which are a mix of studios, one-bedrooms, two bedrooms. He stated that 73 units are being used now and, as leases expire in the building, AU will work to lease those as well.

Diane Dragaud, of Fort Gaines Citizens Association, asked for the number of beds AU had at the Berkshire.

Chris answered that AU had up to 200 beds.

Shelly Repp noted that some students rented independently at the Berkshire.

Chuck Elkins asked about AU's hope for The Frequency building.

Chris responded that AU hopes to take over the entire building based on students desire to be in proximity to campus and the amenities of Tenleytown.

Bruce Klein asked when the first lease was signed at The Frequency. He also asked if The Frequency lease was introduced at the last CLC meeting.

Ed replied that AU signed the first lease in June 2019. He further explained that a community member brought up the topic, but that he did not have information about The Frequency lease until this meeting.

Taylor Berlin asked if The Frequency is open to graduate students.

Chris Silva responded that AU is supportive of housing graduate students if there are vacancies but that undergraduates are a priority.

#### *Announcement of Major Gifts for the Center for Athletic Performance*

Ed Fisher announced the \$3 million gift AU received for the New Center for Athletic Performance, which will support 16 AU varsity programs and the AU community. The announcements made by President Burwell are available at:  
<https://www.american.edu/president/announcements/september-17-2019.cfm>.

Shelly Repp asked where the building would be located.

Ed replied that AU is still assessing sites on campus.

Dennis Paul asked if the \$8 million that AU now has is enough to launch the project.

Ed answered that the funds are sufficient to initiate the project, but that AU still need more funding.

Dennis Paul asked how much funding AU needs.

Ed replied that a design would need to be confirmed with the architecture firm to determine project costs.

Taylor Berlin asked if AU would that open up existing athletic spaces to other uses.

Ed replied that the goal is for students across the university to utilize the new facility, which would theoretically provide more space at Bender Arena.

School year events/calendar updates from Ed Fisher:

AU Planning 101  
"AU and Our Campus: Shaping the Future"  
November 5, 6 – 8 p.m.  
Butler Board Room

### **Good of the Order**

*CLC Meetings for 2018 – 2019*

**Proposed 2019 – 2020 CLC Meeting Dates: December 10; January 7, 2020 (Town Hall);  
March 17, 2020**

Alan Pollock raised a concern about a decrease in maintenance of buffers around campus and a neglect of buffers such as by Katzen Arts Center. He requested increased effort to maintain the buffer by Fort Gaines and other longstanding buffers. He also asked if AU changed its maintenance policies and about the in-charge grounds person.

Ed replied that AU has not changed its policies and believed the grounds keeper has not changed. He offered to reach out to the maintenance team about their schedule and then share information with Alan directly.

Don Edwards asked AU to provide a report on the buffer at the next CLC meeting.

Shelly Repp asked when AU would share the enrollment report for 2019.

Ed responded that enrollment numbers are released in October, which allows AU to give most accurate numbers at the December CLC meeting.

Chuck Elkins asked about the status of the athletic field negotiation.

Ed replied that AU is still in discussion with affected parties and will bring information to the CLC when the university has something to report.

Dennis Paul asked if Seth and President Burwell were holding conversations about decreased enrollment trends in universities.

Seth replied that understanding trends, decisions at other schools, and future impacts are all part of the university's enrollment discussions.

Bruce Klein asked when the university will start work on next campus plan.

Ed answered pointed to the AU Neighborhood Partnership handout provided and explained that the Partnership is working on the campus plan presently, with working groups meeting regularly. He stated that individuals could contact him directly about participation.

Jonathan McHugh asked if the Partnership has been discussed at Fort Gaines Citizens Association meetings.

Diane Dragaud confirmed that Fort Gaines has representatives on each working group of the Partnership.

Don Edwards thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

The next meeting of the CLC will be on **December 10** in Rooms 1-2 of Constitution Hall on East Campus.

### **Attendees**

#### *Community:*

Taylor Berlin, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
Diane Dragaud, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Franklyn Duporte, The Towers  
Chuck Elkins, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
Bruce Klein, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Troy Kravitz, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D  
Jonathan McHugh, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3E  
Dennis Paul, Neighbors for a Livable Community  
Alan Pollock, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Pat Pollock, Fort Gaines Citizens Association  
Shelly Repp, Neighbors for Responsible Development  
John Wheeler, Ward 3 Vision

#### *American University Staff:*

Maria Barry, Director of Community Relations  
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  
Philip Morse, Assistant Vice President of University Police Services and Emergency Management  
Daniel Nichols, Assistant Vice President of Risk, Safety & Transportation Programs  
Sherry Rutherford, AU Campus Plan Consultant, Requity Real Estate  
Chris Silva, Director of Housing

#### *Other:*

Don Edwards, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC  
Kayla Elson, Justice and Sustainability Associates, LLC