

ECA March Meeting, 2015**Randy Nolan, President, welcomed everyone**

- The entire group introduced themselves

David Grosso, Council Member

- At-large councilman (since 2012) and chair of education committee
- Few priorities in Education
 - o Discipline standards
 - Banning suspensions of pre-K students—over 180 Pre-K Students expelled or suspended
 - Getting more mental health services into the schools
 - o Literacy skills gap—trying to improve the early gap
 - o Working with many agencies, including DCPS, OSSE, Public Charter Board, DC Public Libraries, Adult workforce education
 - o Homelessness—it impacts schools
 - Linking work to Health and Human Services
 - More than 2,000 homeless kids
- 10 staffers—all been with him or in DC government for a while
- Please engage; call my office or me
- Website: www.davidgrosso.org
 - o All contact info is on website
 - o Juan Thompson, Constituent Service Director, jthompson@dccouncil.us
- **Questions from ECA members**
 - o How do we engage with the homeless population in our local area?
 - There are service providers in the area
 - Trying to reduce chronically homeless people—adopted a housing first policy
 - It is still an ongoing problem, but the city must realize that what we've been doing hasn't been working
 - o **With the national reduction in funds for public education, how do we deal with getting the needed funding?**
 - We spend \$1.8 billion on education in the District; how can we move it around to make sure it's having the right impact?
 - How can other agencies help students and schools? How can the other agencies engage?
 - We need to find more money; but also account for the money being spent.
 - New Deputy Mayor, Jennifer Niles, is trying to make connections between charters and DCPS. The charter system should help the whole system become better.
 - o **Is there work in encouraging college attendance?**
 - UDC and CC are part of the purview of the committee
 - UDC is going through re-accreditation
 - Honestly, UDC has a lot to go

- CC started up just a few years ago—there is a tremendous amount of need
- **What are your top 3 priorities—since there is so much going on?**
 - 1) student discipline
 - 2) literacy work, including funding effective programs through the budget
 - 3) homelessness, criminal justice, etc.
- **Teacher retention and discipline—is there a connection?**
 - We are looking closely at retention for teachers and principals
 - Not sure if there's a direct connection
 - Teachers asked for the ability for in-school suspensions
 - Principal at Anacostia went from over 100 arrests in the school down to 3

Presentation from RAP, looking for support for a building project

- 1959 4th Street NE
- **Project manager and architect**
 - Current project—new building being constructed
 - They have come to ANC and have always gotten support
 - The current building will be over 9,000 square feet
 - Four levels with parking
 - We are here tonight seeking a letter of support for a green roof—need a zoning variance for that
 - We can put a green roof up there, but need a stairway to get up there
 - There is currently a stair, but only to 3rd level
 - They have a building permit
 - Want to be able to grow vegetables; we have a hatch right now, but want a stairway
 - 9 feet above the roof line
 - **Question from ECA members**
 - When this plan was presented 3 years ago, you presented that you would not go above the current height
 - We have a building permit; we can go to three stories—and 40 feet. We are currently in compliance. Now we want a variance to go beyond the 40 feet.
 - Have you gotten support from neighbors?
 - We have support from yellow house and others
 - This meeting and also the ANC
 - Letters were sent out to neighbors—do you have letters?
 - “Yes” but not produced.
 - Registered letters always come back
 - At the beginning of the process we wanted to see if there was a basement next door. We tried to get in touch with the owner, but we couldn't get in touch
 - Sylvia—there has to be a registered letter to neighbors 200 feet from the property
 - Is there an alternative solution?

- A hatch
- **Should we do a letter of support or opposition?**
 - **Comments from community members:**
 - o They should have come to us much sooner in the process.
 - o They should have had more information about the support of neighbors.
 - o This developer initially told us that their additions would look similar to the construction
 - o The building is not aesthetically pleasing
 - Initial drawings a few years ago were nothing like this. They wanted to focus on the Victorian nature of the building and this is very different.
 - **There was not a resolution to support**

ANC Updates**Renee Lewis**

- Took office Jan 2
- 202-486-5648 (personal number)
- Best way to reach me (since emails may go to spam)
- reneetlewis@yahoo.com; will be transitioning to ANC email
- On the flower building/State Farm project: One developer has reached out
 - o Storage place may be next
 - o JBG wants to do mixed use
- First single-member district meeting—still waiting – wants to do a survey
 - o Send out emails to SMD based off of places that I visited when running for election
 - o

Sylvia Pinkney

- Purple Eckington Signs
 - o Those signs were placed throughout Commissioner Lewis' district by DDOT
 - Commissioner Clark was at the time working for DDOT
 - We should not take those down
 - o Attended Commander Porter's meeting
 - Wanted ANCs to prioritize crime in the area
 - The number one crime is burglary, robbery, and theft from auto
 - She is trying come out to the community to do all we can do
- Mendelton's quarterly ANC meeting
 - o Host was new director of DDOT
 - o Lief Dormajo—wants to reorganize DDOT
- MacMillan Adv. Group
 - o Letter to mayor with concerns about project developers
- New director at Harry Thomas Rec Center
 - o Sylvia has not met her yet
- MidCity East – implementation task force met
 - o Discuss the recommendations

- o Need to prioritize how to implement the plans, recommendations
- o Everyone wants the deck over North Capitol between T St. and Rhode Island Ave.
- o \$11-14 million dollars
- o Smaller recommendations can likely come in another way
- SMD to bring out the agencies to tell what the responsibilities are; ask questions
- 50 Florida Avenue
 - o Movement: they have been to zoning and are requesting approval of the landscaping, trees, lighting, bikeshares that will go around the site.

Lewis: Packages being stolen

- Want to get USPS to come and tell us the options

Questions:

- Is there an update on expanding resident-permit parking?
 - o Sylvia: I have the petitions and am still collecting signatures
 - We are trying to get RPP extended from 7:30-midnight 6 nights per week
- What about alley parking restrictions in the rear of 100 Block of R Street?
 - o They are ticketing people without any enforcement signs
 - o What about out-of-state tags with Ward 5 permits? There are legal ways to do it—active duty military
- Happy Hour March 11
 - o First Cleanup is the 21st, Saturday at 10am—cleanup cards were excellent last year (they are coming)
 - o The cleanup moves around the community