

Jack's October report

ANC actions since my last newsletter:

May 2022: the ANC advised ABRA to approve liquor license renewal applications by Corado's and Beau Thai; advised the District Council to pass the "Human Rights Sanctuary Amendment Act of 2022";

June 2022: the ANC advised the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) to approve an application for Special Exception zoning relief for 1893 Ingleside Terrace; advised ABRA to approve a liquor license application for La Bahia Restaurant, at 3201 Mount Pleasant Street.

July 2022: the ANC advised the Department of Planning and DDOT to renew efforts to implement the Mount Pleasant Street Vision, as approved by the District Council in 2010; advised the BZA to approve Special Exception zoning relief for 1812 Park Road; advised the District Council to consider the "Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2021", which would permit noncitizen residents to vote in local elections here.

September 2022: the ANC advised the HPRB to approve the permit application for 1614 Kilbourne Place; advised ABRA to approve a new liquor license application by La Tejana Restaurant, at 3211 Mount Pleasant Street; advised ABRA to approve the liquor license renewal application by the Marx Cafe, at 3203 Mount Pleasant Street; advised the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development to support the cost of historic restoration at the Renaissance/-Kenesaw building; 3060 16th Street.

Yes, I voted in favor of every one of these ANC resolutions.

Residents may ask why **my newsletters**, which have been quite popular among my constituents, stopped after the May 2022 issue. Mostly, delivery is a lot of time and effort, as I personally deliver more than 700 of these newsletters to every residence in my single-member district (SMD). The delivery task is especially troublesome in the heat of summer; hence June, July, and September deliveries were omitted. Heat certainly won't be a problem for this October issue – but, fact is, at age 80 years, I find the delivery job increasingly burdensome.

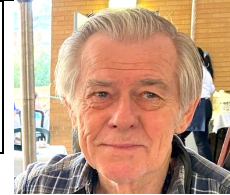
In addition, a consideration when I started these newsletters, 20 years ago, was that some residents did not have internet access. Today, few Mount Pleasant residents are without internet access, as cellphones now come with internet software. Hence, it's no longer necessary to do the paper newsletter distribution to achieve my fundamental goal, which is to keep residents apprised of what their ANC is doing. So, after the May 2022 issue, I felt I could cease my ANC newsletters, and depend on the internet for informing the public of ANC actions, employing the ANC website (in 2003, there was none), and the NextDoor chat site. However, I am convinced that hand-delivered newsletters on paper will be far more effective at reaching residents. Hence, this (perhaps final) newsletter.

Why did I decide **against running for another ANC term**? I've been doing this for 20 years, and many residents –

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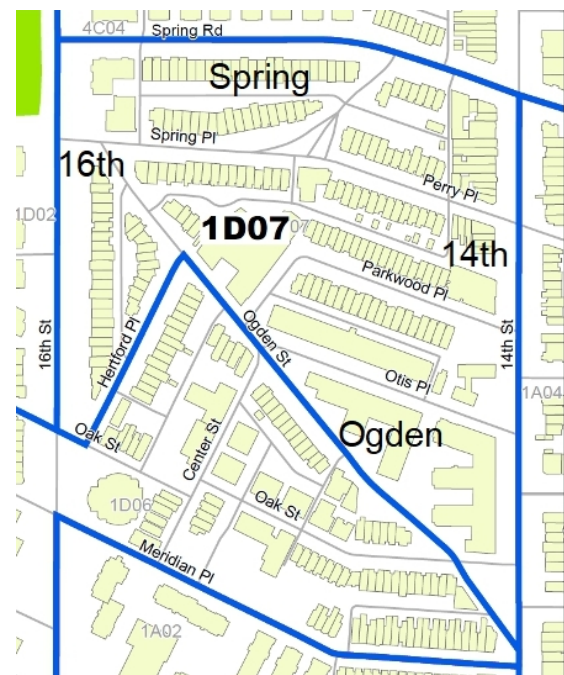


not all! – seem to think that I'm doing a creditable job, and would prefer that I continue.

But, at my age, I can no longer put in the energy that I consider necessary for doing a proper job of representing the residents of Mount Pleasant. I'm also plagued by declining hearing. Even with hearing aids, I find hearing people speak at meetings difficult, and telephone calls are nearly impossible. So it is clearly time for old Jack to move on, and find something else to do in his remaining years.

Knowing that this would be my last year on the ANC, I have focused on helping the other commissioners learn to do the things I do, as Commission Secretary, and as a 20-year veteran of this peculiar, and demanding, job. I was dismayed to see that none of the current 1D commissioners is running for re-election. The difficulties of operating an ANC as novice commissioners (just one will, next year, have ANC experience) will be compounded by the reorganization and expansion of the current commission upon redistricting.

Since the **2010 census**, this commission has comprised five commissioners – five single-member districts (SMDs). The 2020 census showed an increased population, such that the commission would expand to six SMDs, as it had before the 2010 census. (The Deauville was vacant at the time of the



This portion of Columbia Heights will be represented on the Mount Pleasant ANC.

2010 census, due to fire damage, resulting in a significant decrease in Mount Pleasant population.)

Six commissioners is still a relatively small commission, and our Ward One Councilmember, Brianne Nadeau, is convinced that an ANC should have at least seven commissioners. Hence, she instructed the ANC Redistricting Task Force to add a chunk of Columbia Heights to the Mount Pleasant ANC.

I think that is contrary to the fundamental rationale for an ANC, which is to speak for “a neighborhood”, with one voice. What happens when an ANC includes residents of two distinct neighborhoods? The Mount Pleasant ANC will, after January 2, include a portion of Columbia Heights, from 16th Street east to 14th Street, and from Meridian Place north to Spring Road.

The members of this Task Force asserted that the residents of this portion of Columbia Heights would be happy to be represented by a commissioner seated on the Mount Pleasant ANC. I think this will only be troublesome, and will serve neither neighborhood well. That portion of Columbia Heights loses its seat on the Columbia Heights ANC, and will be outnumbered, 6 to 1, by Mount Pleasant residents on this ANC.

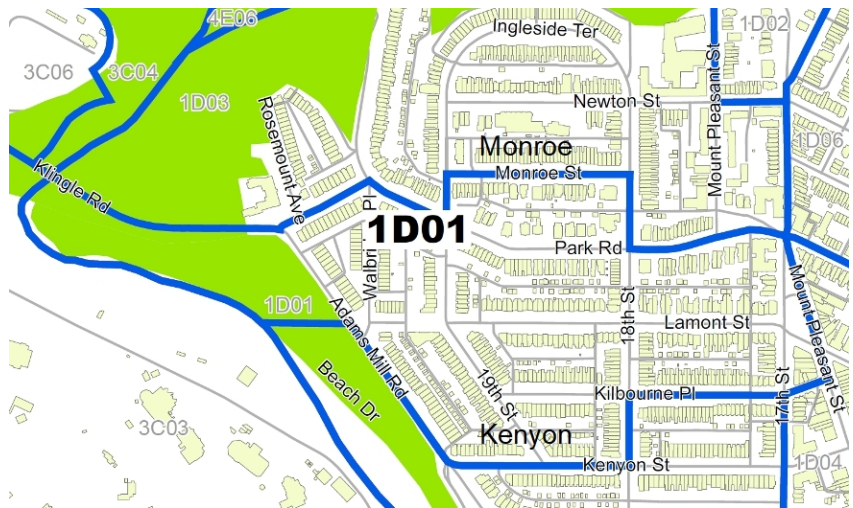
Furthermore, this expansion of the Mount Pleasant ANC will include a large portion of the 14th Street commercial corridor. That adds a substantial burden to the workload for this commission, as this seventh SMD brings in a commercial area that is unknown to most residents of Mount Pleasant.

I had anticipated testifying to the District Council in opposition to this corruption of our neighborhood boundaries, but Councilmember Elissa Silverman, chair of the sub-committee in charge of this work, made it clear that she would not oppose the ANC boundary decisions made by the ward councilmembers. So that was that.

It is notable that **this new SMD, 1D07**, northwest Columbia Heights merged into the Mount Pleasant ANC, has found no candidates in the current election. The Redistricting Task Force members claimed firmly that the residents of this part of Columbia Heights would be happy to be considered part of Mount Pleasant. No one asked residents the right question – do you want your commissioner to be seated on the Mount Pleasant ANC, or on the Columbia Heights ANC?

In fact, no one from that area has stepped up to be that commissioner. There is no candidate on the November ballot for this SMD.

And what about **my SMD**, principally Mount Pleasant north of Lamont Street and west of 18th? It's been expanded to the east, to Mount Pleasant Street and 17th, and divided horizontally, mainly along Monroe Street and Park Road. Again, it was necessary to increase the number of 1D SMDs from five to six, entirely without the cross-neighborhood expansion to add a seventh SMD. The Redistricting Task Force was required to lay out districts containing 2000



What was my SMD has been split in two, along Monroe Street and Park Road.

residents, plus or minus five percent. I have no complaint about how they did this job.

It is curious that the revised 1D01, which includes my home, has no ANC candidate in this election. A number of people will write in my name, and I'm quite flattered by that. But no, I cannot be on this ANC next year.

As my ANC term approaches its end, I can say something about what I perceive ANC service is about. Looking over the list at the top of this newsletter of its recent actions, it's apparent that this ANC has emphasized helping Mount Pleasant residents and business people get the permits and licenses they need from the DC Government. Take, for example, applications to the BZA – the Board of Zoning Adjustment – for “Special Exception” relief. Now, who knows what a “Special Exception”, or what the criteria applied by the BZA for an approval are? That's where the ANC can step up, with some knowledge of these terms and regulations, to help Mount Pleasant residents (and businesses) get the permits they need.

The two BZA applications listed at the start of this newsletter – for 1893 Ingleside Terrace, and 1812 Park Road – were in fact approved by the BZA, allowing those homeowners to do the work they wanted on their houses. That's what ANC commissioners can do for Mount Pleasant residents.

I shall forever be grateful to those who have expressed support for my time on this ANC. I hope I've done well for the neighborhood.

The October meeting of the ANC will take place at 7 pm, Tuesday, October 25. Due to the pandemic, it will have to be a “virtual” meeting, accessible only via the internet, using Zoom software. See the ANC1D website, anc1d.org, for details.