

# **Alan Karnofsky**

## **Candidate, ANC 3D05**

### **Tell us about yourself**

My name is Alan Karnofsky and I am running to be the next Commissioner for single member district 3D05. I am a current DC government employee working in the Office of the City Administrator. I received my Masters in Public Administration, with a concentration in State and Local Government, from American University.

My passion in life is local government because I know that is what affects people's day to day lives the most. Every day, in my job, I work hard for all residents of the District of Columbia, but now, I want to do more work for my neighborhood. Being a public servant is my calling and that is why I am running for this office.

When I am not working, you can find me at Mac Market getting a bagel sandwich, getting groceries from the Safeway, or playing tennis at the Palisades Recreation Center. I love this neighborhood and want to see it become the safest and best area to live in Washington, DC.

### **What are your thoughts about the need for development in our area? For example, what would be an ideal outcome for Palisades Safeway?**

The need for development comes from the residents. I believe if residents of our community share a strong want for more development, then I would be in favor. However, any development needs to be smart and sensible development. I am in favor of the new single family homes in the community attracting young families and growing the community but still keeping the character of the neighborhood. I am also in favor of the green infrastructure that these new developments bring.

An ideal outcome for the Palisades Safeway would be a plan unit development. Many members of the community have expressed to me that they are in favor of an updated Safeway or a new grocery store. However, they are not in favor of a six story development on top of the Safeway with a penthouse. With input from the community, I would also like to see senior housing on top of the Safeway to help seniors stay in place as well as some moderate income housing. I look forward to hearing from the surrounding community more on the Safeway and development in general to ensure all voices are heard before action is taken.

**Do you have views about the historic preservation process in Washington? On the ANC, how would you weigh the interests of owners faced with landmark nominations with those of preservationists?**

My thoughts on the historic preservation process in Washington, DC are that it is needed to keep the neighborhood's character. I am in favor of having the ANC weigh-in and give great weight on the historic preservation process but I also think the surrounding community should weigh in through their commissioner. One of the reasons why I am running is to be a better voice for our community and to understand what the community wants. I am opposed to outside groups who do not live in the community filing to make our properties historic. How I would weigh the interest of the community when it comes to historic preservation nomination is to work with the owners of the property as well as the community to try to come up with a solution on how both parties could benefit. An example and one of the reasons why I decided to run was the old farm house on Foxhall Rd. Even though it is not in my single member district, I think the solution of moving the farm house to the Field School property was the right one. An agreement could have been made so that the new home owners could build a new house so that both parties could benefit from instead of designating the vacant property historic.

**The ANC approves many issues unanimously. Should Commissioners be allowed to select items – e.g. driveway cut permits – they feel are not controversial for fast-tracking, or do neighbors deserve to hear presentations on all such projects to be fully informed?**

I think a consent calendar is necessary but not before community concerns. I think a consent calendar helps push the agenda along with non-controversial issues but I also think the ANC does a good job letting community members speak on issues. As your ANC 3D05 commissioner, I would work hard prior to meetings with my constituents to make sure that issues become non-controversial so they can end up on the consent calendar.

**When is it acceptable to side with businesses or large institutions over the interests of residents?**

It is never acceptable to side with businesses or large institutions over the interests of residents. As your commissioner, I would work with businesses in my single member district to come up with solutions that both parties can agree upon. Businesses bring certain services to my single member district that my community enjoys and patrons; eating at establishments like Black Salt, going to US post office, or grabbing a snack at Mac Market are a few of the reasons why people decided to move in the neighborhood and it is my job to work with everyone to better the community. I would also work with businesses to create settlement agreements that the community can approve and patron.

**How should we accommodate cycling as an alternative to driving in our community?**

Cycling is an important mode of transportation for our community and should not be ignored. In order to accommodate cycling, we should consider street improvements such as dedicated bike lanes, or a potential crushed stone surface on the Palisades Trolley Trail. If the residents so choose, we would ask DDOT to do a feasibility study for potential bicycle lanes or sharrows on MacArthur Blvd. Cycling is a great way to exercise and a great way to commute. It is also better for the environment and sometimes faster to get around the city. Cyclists should always follow stop signs, traffic lights, and use signals while motor vehicles need to yield to cyclists. If elected, I support introducing a resolution to get DDOT to do a transportation study on MacArthur Blvd and ask them to consider putting a capital bikeshare/ E-bikeshare at the Palisades Library.

**What will you do to help realize pedestrian and cyclist connection from Arizona Avenue to the Capital Crescent Trail and C & O Canal?**

The first thing I would do is reach out to National Park Service and ask them to maintain the land. I think they do a poor job maintaining their property in ANC 3D05 as well as provide signage to let residents in the neighborhood know how to get to the Capital Crescent Trail and the C & O Canal. I would also work with DDOT, the Palisades Citizen Association and more specifically, the PCA Trails committee, on solutions how to help community members realize the benefit and connection from Arizona Avenue to the Capital Crescent Trail.

**What are your thoughts on DDOT's proposal to introduce an 8-10 feet wide crushed stone surface along part of the Palisades Trolley Trail between Galena Place and Nebraska Avenue?**

I am in favor of the 8-10 feet wide crushed stone surface along part of the Palisades Trolley Trail between Galena Place and Nebraska Avenue. I understand some residents may be against this due to increased traffic which may bring additional waste. However, I would host community clean ups along the trail to ensure the trail is always properly clean and maintained.

**What are your thoughts on the future of the entire Palisades Trolley Trail between Galena Place and Georgetown?**

My thoughts on the entire trolley trail from the Palisades to Georgetown are that it needs to be accessible to all and properly maintained to ensure the sustainability and longevity of the Trail. I also think DDOT needs to take control of the bridge from WMATA and restore it. I would work with my fellow commissioners outside my single member district as well as ANC2E to ensure the trail is able to meet the needs of all community members and visitors that use it.

**What are your thoughts on the slated \$20M expansion of Key Elementary School? Considering the constraints of the site should the allocated funds address the needs of the school's population today or it's anticipated growth over the next 50 years?**

All Key Elementary students deserve to be in a proper school building to ensure they have access to the best learning environment possible, which is why I support the \$20 million investment in Key to replace the trailers with a permanent addition to the building. Looking over the long-term, I want to see Key become and remain a sustainable school for our current and future families. Additionally, I also think to meet the needs of the students in the Palisades, the District must look at all available options, including re-opening the Old Hardy building for DCPS use.