

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



April 21, 2026

The Honorable Charles Allen
Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Reappointment of Two Current PSC Commissioners

Dear Commissioner Allen:

Thank you and the Committee on Transportation and the Environment for your oversight of the DC Public Service Commission (PSC). The work of the PSC has major consequences for all those who live and work in the District of Columbia, all the organizations and establishments within the District, and the land and environment. Over the past few years, we have had numerous occasions for concern that the PSC is not meeting its public service mandate, which is established in law and echoed in the mission statement of the PSC: to ensure that services provided by the privately held public utility companies serving the District of Columbia are safe and adequate, the utility rates are just, reasonable and non-discriminatory, and PSC policies are advancing the District's climate goals.

We urge that the Council not reappoint the two Commissioners whose terms are expiring this year, Chair Emile Thompson and Commissioner Ted Trabue, who have been renominated by the Mayor for another term. Their performance has fallen short of public needs and expectations. They have voted in favor of decisions in numerous PSC cases that go against recommendations by public interests including the DC Office of People's Counsel (OPC), the DC Government/Office of the Attorney General, and consumer and environmental advocates. Even their fellow Commissioner Richard Beverly has repeatedly presented thoughtful and well-researched dissents in those cases. But the 2-1 majority rules.

Examples include the PSC's decisions to approve:

- increases in gas and electric distribution rates that are considerably above what OPC, other formal parties to the rate cases, and consumer advocates have found necessary or justified, and as a result making it more difficult for customers to afford to pay their utility bills and keep making ends meet;
- a 3-year extension of the Multiyear Ratemaking Program that Pepco requested, without completing an evaluation of the results of the initial 3-year Multiyear Ratemaking pilot the PSC had approve and without holding evidentiary hearings on the new proposal (a major reason why the recent court decision overturned the PSC's order in this proceeding);
- \$150 million for Washington Gas Light's proposed Phase 3 of PROJECTpipes accelerated pipe replacement program over the next three years, in spite of widespread opposition, evidence that the program does not achieve the goal of effectively and efficiently replacing aging or leaking gas pipes that pose the greatest danger of leaks or breaks, and major public concerns that the plan does not take into account the serious climate change effects of using natural gas and the likely decline in need to

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (January 1, 2025-December 31, 2026) www.anc3a.org

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Isaac Bowers

Claire McCafferty

Ann Lane Mladinov

retain the extensive current natural gas distribution network in the District in future years as we move to electrification.

A new Mayor will be elected within 6 months of the end of the two Commissioners' current term. By holding off on the reappointments, the Council can allow time for the new Mayor to identify candidates for those two seats who have the appropriate experience and perspectives, understand the mission of the PSC, and are committed to carrying out its mandate, including:

- Ensuring economical service to customers
- Preventing expenditures by public utility companies that are inefficient or unnecessary to provide services to customers and would lead to higher rates without consideration of the costs and benefits to consumers
- Making greater progress on the District's climate and environmental goals; and
- Providing far more transparency, accountability, and clarity in its proceedings, public communications, and community engagement. This should include holding evidentiary hearings in important and complex cases, having community hearings in proceedings with substantial public impact, offering more explanation of the reasoning behind official decisions at PSC public meetings, and giving greater weight to the findings and recommendations of expert witnesses, OPC, ANCs, and the public, as well as to the informed views of staff and fellow Commissioners on the PSC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis
Chair

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This resolution was approved by the Commission by a vote of ____ at a duly-noticed public meeting on April 21, 2026, at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.). By the same vote, the Commission designates the Chair or his designee to represent ANC 3A on this matter.